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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate your level of confidence that the Interior Department would issue the workers regulations this month?

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to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Art Sponsor

Bank of Guam is the newest sponsor of the 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

LOCAL...Page 7



Weiner-gate

A tearful Rep. Anthony Weiner admits sending a lewd photo of himself to a young woman.

NATION...Page 14



Fashion Award

Lady Gaga is recognized as the year's top style icon.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

SEARCH ENTERS 14TH DAY

FBI offers \$10K cash reward

»Inos assures family that the search will continue

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

With still no trace of the whereabouts of missing sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk, the FBI offered yesterday a cash reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the girls' safe return or information that would lead to the successful prosecution of anyone responsible for their disappearance.

See FBI on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Acting governor Eloy Inos, second from right, joins a news briefing yesterday at the Kagman Community Center where FBI Guam resident supervisor Steve L. Moore, fourth from left, announced a \$10,000 cash reward for information leading to the safe return of Faloma and Maleina Luhk. Also in the photo are, from left, Jermain Quitugua, Office of Homeland Security special assistant Marvin K. Seman, Elbert Quitugua, acting police commissioner Ramon Mafnas, and Anicia Tomokane.

Inos vetoes bill suspending ETC

- Acting governor wants changes in ETC program
- Private schools group says admin made the 'right decision'

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos vetoed yesterday a controversial bill suspending the educational tax credit program during periods of government austerity, but made it clear that the administration wants to see the program reformed to require accountability from public and private institutions receiving ETC money, among other things.

Inos, in his two-page veto message to the Legislature, said the overwhelming pleas by students and educational institu-

See INOS on Page 4



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

LAND CLEARING

Employees of J.A.R. Design Consulting Services and subcontractor KPS Corp. work on a land clearing involving some 4 hectares of private land on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. The massive removal of trees and vegetation will pave the way for a Korean investor's enterprise at a location that has a good view of the Saipan Lagoon and Managaha Island. See story on Page 4.

Kagman rape lookout gets 15-yr. prison term

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Angel Jess Santos was sentenced yesterday to 15 years in prison for his role in the kidnapping and rape of a then 16-year-old student in Kagman last year.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman said that 10 years of Santos' sentence will be served without the possibility of parole.

"The acts underlying the offense in this case were horrific, outrageous, depraved, and constitute an affront to the dignity of human nature and cannot be tolerated in any civilized society."

See KAGMAN on Page 4

Transition team formed for incoming NMC president. **PAGE 5**
Fall scholars face another drastic cut in financial grants. **PAGE 7**



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Local

Eucon confers diplomas on 10 high school graduates 16 other students promoted

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Eucon International School conferred diplomas on 10 high school students and promoted 16 others during the institution's 13th commencement exercises on Saturday at its Agape Auditorium.

Besides 10 12th graders, the school also promoted the same number of junior high school students and six sixth graders at the recognition rites that saw the

attendance of over a 100 families and friends of the graduates.

The highest awardees from first through 12th grade were also recognized for their academic achievements.

Eucon traditionally gives three annual awards: the President Award, Principal Award, and Dean's Award.

The President Award is given to students who display high academic performance and exemplary attitude. This honor was presented to top



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Graduates of Eucon International School bow their heads in prayer during the institution's 13th commencement exercises on Saturday at the school campus. Eucon conferred diplomas on 10 high school students and promoted 16 other students from junior high school and elementary levels.

students from first to 12th grade: Christopher Mafnas, Victoria Nicole Santos, James Matthew Reyes, Jia Yi Linda Zhou, Daniel Villarmero, Julianna Patricia Perez, and Ha Won Samuel Seo.

The Principal Award, given to students who display significant improvements, was bestowed on Enoch Chen, Elijah Villarmero, Seon Yeon Sunny Woo, Adonna Matutino, Yue Nan Angel Xu, Fei Chen, Caitlin Trasmanno, Hao Wei Liu, Oyundari Mika Tsatsral, Shi Yu Isaiah Zhou, Yanan Joy Wang, and En Ci Devin Zhuang.

The Dean's Award, given out to students who achieve the highest academic stature, was presented to Joy Yan, Si Ting Aaron Zhou, Juancho Siasoyco, Danielle Pineda, Theresa Zheng, Ha Young Joseph Seo, Erin Rose Pacheco, Li Mei Feng, Pin Lu Qin, Jin Zi Angela

Chen, Yu Tony Duan, and Wen Jing Faith Zhang.

Honorable mention awards went to Ken Cordero, Michelle Jeon, Jefferey Sheu, and Noreen Vidal for first grade; Caleb Yan, Jin Seok Park, Chisa Kobayashi, and Alan Mikhail Matutino for second grade; Ao Feng Zheng and Jan Matthew Millo for third grade; Gun Lee for fourth grade; William Young for fifth grade; and Mark Liban and Xu James Gao for 11th grade.

Of the 10 students who graduated high school, nine will stay on and study at the Eucon International College.

Eucon International School now offers summer classes for those who are trying to advance or retake classes. They are also accepting registration for English as a secondary language. The next school year will start on Aug. 15, 2011.

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MISSING SISTERS

Last seen: As Teo, Saipan CNMI
Date missing: 6am, Wednesday, May 25, 2011
Name: Luhk, Maleina
Age: 9 years old
Height: 4 feet
Weight: 50-60 pounds
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Brown
Body: Petite
Complexion: Tan
Characteristics: Circle birthmark left cheek
Last wearing: White blouse and jeans



Last seen: As Teo, Saipan CNMI
Date missing: 6am, Wednesday, May 25, 2011
Name: Luhk, Faloma
Age: 10 years old
Height: 5.1 feet
Weight: 90 pounds
Eyes: Brown
Hair: Short brown
Body: Petite
Complexion: Tan
Last wearing: Light green shirt with a butterfly design on the front with blue jeans



DPS is seeking help from the public. Please call 911 or contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000.00 for any information leading to an arrest. Additional \$1,000.00 is also being offered!

Please help FIND FALOMA AND MALEINA
Family Contact Nos. 256-0054 or 285-4048

Strong support for Larson's nomination as Finance secretary

»Senate panel also holds public hearings on CDA, PUC nominees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

No less than acting governor Eloy S. Inos presented the Fitial administration's nominee, Larrisa Larson, during the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigation's public hearing yesterday on Larson's nomination as Finance secretary.

Inos, a former Finance secretary, thanked Larson for accepting the nomination given the challenges that come with the job, especially during tough economic times. He spoke of Larson's qualification, skills, and ability, as well as the administration's strong support and faith in her.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Inos nominated Larson as Finance secretary on April 5; Larson has been holding the post in a temporary and acting capacity since Jan. 10. Her nomination requires the advice and consent of the full Senate.

As part of the process, the Senate EAGI Committee has to review the nomination and hold a public hearing, which the panel did yesterday.

Attorney General Ed Buckingham and former CNMI public auditor Mike Sablan testified in support of Larson's nomination.

Others who testified in support of the nominee were Customs director Jesus Muña, special assistant for administration



Acting Finance secretary Larrisa Larson, right, is all smiles as she's greeted by Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Malae, left, while Gregorio Camacho, center, looks on after the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations held yesterday morning a public hearing on Larson's nomination as Finance secretary. Her nomination needs the full Senate's confirmation.

Esther Fleming, special assistant for management and budget Virginia Villagomez, and Northern Marianas College board of regents member William Torres.

Larson, in an interview, said she's humbled by the support she has received. "It's been an honor and a privilege to work with anyone I work with. It's been a humbling experience. ... I'm a little overwhelmed by the support," she said.

Larson began work in government in 2000 as a business development consultant and special assistant to the president at Northern Marianas College. She

moved to the Office of the Public Auditor in 2003 as an analyst. She started working at the Office of the Lieutenant Governor in 2010 as a technical analyst until being named acting Finance secretary in January, and officially nominated to the post in April.

The mother of three said despite the demands of her job, she makes sure she has time for her children.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the EAGI Committee, said the panel also received written testimony from Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz supporting Larson.

"We also received emails, texts, and verbal messages supporting the nominee. Everything we received were in support of her; nobody is opposing her nomination. It's more than likely that she will be confirmed by the Senate," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

During the public hearing, Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) and other EAGI Committee members stated that they will vote for Larson once her nomination is up for voting.

Reyes said it is "rare" for the governor or the acting governor to attend a public hearing on the governor's nomination. He said

Inos' presence says a lot about the administration's confidence in the nominee.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the administration is confident that it has presented a nominee that will likely be confirmed.

If and when confirmed by the Senate, Larson will fill the position left vacant by Robert Schrack, who stepped down on Oct. 31, 2010.

When Schrack left the post, Connie Agulto was temporarily assigned to head Finance in November. By Jan. 10, then acting governor Inos named Larson to become acting Finance secretary until Fitial nominated her to the post in April.

PUC, CDA board nominees

The Senate also held separate public hearings on the governor's nominations of former senator Digo Songao to serve on the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors and Ignacio Perez to serve on the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission. Nobody opposed their nominations.

Cruz, Reyes, Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and other senators expressed concern about the ur-

gency to confirm Perez not only because the end of the 90-day period is approaching but more because the CPUC no longer has a member starting today due to Viola Alepuyo's appointment expiring on June 7.

Alepuyo was the chairperson and only commissioner until the last day of her appointment, which was already extended by 30 days.

Perez, in an interview, said it would be a challenge to serve on the commission by himself if and when the Senate confirms his nomination.

Once confirmed, Perez will serve the remainder of the term of former CPUC commissioner Kimberly King-Hinds. That term expires on Feb. 6, 2012.

Senators said Perez is likely to be confirmed, absent any opposition to his nomination.

"But the governor should also appoint other members," Cruz said.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said he recommends that the House also hold an immediate public hearing on Perez's nomination, and vote to confirm him soon to ensure that CPUC functions are not disrupted.

The governor submitted Perez's name to the Senate on March 21. The 90-day period expires June 21.

3rd-grade Rota students to finally get their dictionaries

Better late than never.

The Rotary Club of Saipan will send out this week dictionaries for third grade students on Rota as part of their dictionary project.

The project, which was paid for by Delta Air Lines, involves the distribution of some 1,000

dictionaries to third grade students of public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Research shows that third grade students are at the age when they will better absorb information from reference materials such as dictionaries.

Vocational services direc-

tor Jeff Boyer said yesterday that about 40 students of the Sinapalo Elementary School will be the last to receive the dictionaries.

"We had trouble getting the logistics in sending the dictionaries to Rota," Boyer told reporters. "But we plan to send

them out this week. We plan to accomplish what we're sent out to do."

Since they plan to give away dictionaries annually, Boyer said they plan to do the distribution early, in time for the start of every school year. (Clarissa V. David)

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4 hectares of private land being cleared on Capital Hill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Motorists traversing the road going to and from Capital Hill may have noticed an ongoing land clearing by one of the steep curves after passing the Coffee Care area. The project, funded by a Korean investor, covers some 4 hectares of private land with a good view of

the Saipan Lagoon and Managaha Island.

By the time the land clearing is over, dozens and perhaps hundreds of trees may have been cut down to give way to a private enterprise.

Gone are most of the trees and vegetation covering the sloping area, right next to the spot where the famous Capital Hill “tree trunk” is located.

Jesus A. Reyes, president of J.A.R. Design Consulting Services, which was contracted by a Korean investor for the land clearing, said the investor spent some two years just to secure local and federal permits to be able to clear the property.

He said the land clearing will pave the way for a private investment that will generate rev-

enue for the CNMI.

“We have all the permits needed, and every day, we’re visited by DEQ [Division of Environmental Quality], CRM [Coastal Resources Management] and DFW [Division of Fish and Wildlife]. We won’t be starting this without proper permits,” he said.

The actual land clearing started on May 25.

He said the investor spent \$36,000 just to have birds in the area transferred to another location, as required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In an interview at the site yesterday, Reyes said the private land is owned by Ana Deleon Guerrero, and is being leased by a Korean investor.

He said the investor does not want to disclose at this time the type of structure that will be built at the site once the land clearing is completed.

Other lawmakers have also been curious about the ongoing land clearing.

They asked whether it’s a private or public property, and whether there are necessary permits considering the massive amount of trees and vegetation cut down. They said unlike the installation of Marpi power poles which triggered protests from some residents over aesthetics issue, the land clearing on Capital Hill seems to be quietly progressing.

FBI

From Page 1

Steve L. Moore, the FBI resident supervisor in Guam, said the \$10,000 reward is separate from the other cash rewards being offered by other donors.

“We also encourage anyone to call if they have information about the girls even if it does not seem important to them personally or if they have information that is not known to them firsthand,” Moore said in a news briefing held yesterday at the Kagman Community Center.

The NMI Crime Stoppers Program and IT&E have each offered a \$1,000 cash reward for information leading to the recovery of 10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina Luhk. The girls’ grandfather and cus-

todian, Elbert Quitugua, had also recently disclosed that the family will soon announce a five-digit monetary reward to help locate his granddaughters.

Today, Wednesday, marks the 14th day since the girls disappeared as they were leaving their house in As Teo on their way to a bus stop.

Moore thanked the public for all the calls they have received so far and said the resolution of this matter could very well come through tips just like those they have received.

He also thanked the Department of Public Safety as well as other federal partners—Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Marshals, and Homeland Security Investigations—“for their invaluable assistance to date.”

Acting DPS commissioner Ramon Mafnas said search

teams are sent out everyday to “areas of interest” and that the FBI-CNMI investigation teams continue to interview people.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, who joined the news briefing, assured the girls’ family that the government will continue to look for the two. “This is a very unprecedented incident in our history. We ask your patience to allow us do our job. Let’s let them [local and federal law enforcers] do their job professionally.”

Inos gave credit to the hard work of DPS, Fire Division, Department of Corrections, and others, as well as the rapid response of federal partners.

“We’re very grateful for the speed in which the federal government responded to our request. And I just hope that sooner or later that we will be

able to find some answers to this thing,” Inos said. “That the kids are still okay, that’s our hope,” Inos said.

He also thanked volunteers for joining the search and the private sector for donating food and drinks to the search teams.

Elbert Quitugua, who was also at the news briefing, thanked local and federal law enforcers, volunteers, the private sector, media, and all other persons that contributed to the search efforts.

Jermain Quitugua, the mother of Faloma and Maleina, was also at the briefing with the girls’ aunt, Anicia Tomokane.

After the briefing, Moore told reporters that they have several theories and are pursuing each one. It is for this reason, he said, that they need over 20 FBI special agents and support staff to

help the investigation. He said they are working jointly with DPS such as when they are doing interviews, follow-ups, and pursuing leads.

“We pursue every lead and we’re pursuing every theory that could be out there,” he said.

Moore agreed that as more time passes, the riskier it is for the girls.

“So time is of the essence and that’s why we are seeking the public’s help to provide us with any information they have that help us further this investigation,” he said.

Moore said they are still discussing whether to get trained dogs for the search since it involves logistics. “It is still an option,” he added.

Moore described the case as a very difficult investigation, especially when a lead becomes

“a dead end.”

“Everybody is motivated. Everybody wants a happy ending to this,” he said.

He said the search or investigation takes 16 to 17 hours a day, not only for the FBI agents but also for DPS investigators.

As for the various rumors about the girls’ disappearance, Moore said the FBI wants to hear the rumors. “We want to hear any information so that we can determine whether or not it is something we can pursue,” he said.

When asked about Ruhtik R. Luhk, the girls’ father who now lives in Pohnpei, Moore said all members of the family are persons of interest until investigators determine otherwise.

“We’re trying to interview him. We’re trying to make contact with him,” he added.

INOS

From Page 1

tions to disapprove Senate Bill 17-68 “cannot be ignored.”

He said the administration did not receive a single letter of support for the bill.

Inos’ veto of SB 17-68 comes as good news to the Coalition of CNMI Private Schools that, along with the Public School System, had opposed the bill’s passage.

Coalition president Scott Norman said he’s “absolutely thrilled” to learn of the bill’s veto, adding that the administration has taken a pro-education approach.

“The administration has made the right decision in vetoing the bill,” Norman told *Saipan Tribune* in a brief phone interview. Norman is also the principal of Calvary Christian Academy.

Yesterday was the last day for the governor to act on the bill; otherwise the bill automatically becomes law.

Inos said the administra-

tion acknowledges the need to reform the ETC law as the program in its current state is not implemented as originally intended.

He said the current system “allows taxpayers to take the power of the purse from the Legislature, does not require the qualified educational institutions to account for and report on the expenditure of the contributions, and does not set a limit on the amount of contributions one institution may receive during each year.”

“However, SB 17-68 also will not carry out its intent as stated in the findings as the language to amend the ETC program generates very minimal revenues for the general fund,” he said.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), one of the strongest critics of the bill, said he’s grateful that the administration saw the importance of the ETC program to schools.

Benavente said he has spoken to fellow lawmakers to work on reforming the ETC program, “remove the loopholes in the

law” and improve it, as the administration also wanted.

‘Gross inequity’

The acting governor said there is gross inequity of distribution of funds among qualified educational institutions in allowing taxpayers to pick and choose which institutions they will donate to.

“In essence, taxpayers become appropriators of public funds, which by law is the purview of the Legislature. Undoubtedly, if it were the Legislature directing ETC funds to qualified educational institutions, the distribution would be fair and equitable based on the number of enrollees each institution has,” Inos said.

He also said it would not be arbitrary and disparate as the current system allows.

Based on Department of Finance reports, there are educational institutions with 100 to 200 students that receive over \$100,000 annually while others with thousands of students receive less than 1 percent of that amount.

“Clearly, such disparity nei-

ther serves the interest of the Commonwealth students, nor can be categorized as the intent of the ETC program as originally legislated,” he said.

‘No accountability’

Inos pointed to the lack of accountability to the public for fund expenditures, which are essentially tax dollars for public purposes.

Besides removing appropriation authority from the Legislature, the ETC law also allows individuals and businesses to contribute up to \$5,000 each year to qualified institutions “but requires no reporting,” Inos said.

He reiterated that expenditure of ETC funds should be used only for limited purposes to augment expenses related to actual education expenses required for each institution’s approved curriculum.

“It should not be considered or used as slush funds for activities such as off-island field trips, banquets and other extra-curricular activities. Strict parameters should be set for the allowable

usage of ETC funds,” he said.

‘Minimal revenue’

Inos said he disapproves the bill as this reform as written will realize minimal revenue for the general fund.

SB 17-68, introduced by Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), simply suspends the ETC program during periods of government austerity.

It also only addresses contributions through wages and salaries but not gross revenue taxes, which accounts for some \$1.2 million in ETC contributions compared to some \$40,000 from wage and salary contributions.

“Simply put, \$1.2 million in ETC contributions will continue to be made to qualified educational institutions and not affected by this measure,” Inos said.

Support for another ETC reform bill

With the flaws of SB 17-68, Inos recommends that the Legislature instead deliberate on HB 17-188 and incorporate

the suggestions detailed in his veto message.

HB 17-188, recently introduced by Rep. Frederick Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), proposes to keep the ETC program intact while requiring accountability from all institutions and providing measures for fairness.

“The administration further recommends that the reform legislation for ETC include a cap for a combined total amount allowable for contributions annually to be received by qualified institutions,” he said.

Inos and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial earlier said suspending the ETC program during austerity periods is a good idea, but a thorough review of the bill showed that the proposal won’t achieve its intended purpose.

Private and public school administrators, teachers, students and parents have been making their opposition to the bill known to the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate in recent weeks, especially when the House was deliberating on the measure.

KAGMAN

From Page 1

ety,” said Wiseman.

The 22-year-old Santos was actually sentenced to 20 years in prison but five years will be suspended, with credit for time served. He has been in jail since his arrest on June 18, 2010.

Santos’ lawyer, Joseph James Norita Camacho, told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing that his client is still willing to cooperate with the government if it re-files the charges against Santos’ three

co-defendants.

“Hopefully his cooperation will bring a small measure of justice to the victim and her family,” he added.

Camacho said that Santos had a minimum involvement in this case, being merely the lookout as his co-defendants raped the girl.

“His participation was limited to being the lookout. He never participated in the sexual assault,” Camacho said.

According to Santos, it was Joseph Camacho Jr., Alfred P. Hocog, and Ivan Jones Castro who abducted and then sexually

assaulted the victim.

Santos immediately pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit sexual assault in the first degree as part of a plea deal where he will testify against the three other suspects.

In December 2010, Wiseman dismissed without prejudice the case against Joseph Camacho Jr., Hocog, and Castro, at the request of the Office of the Attorney General, after the results of a DNA test turned up inconclusive.

In sentencing Santos, Wiseman said the CNMI’s public laws represent the will and

sentiment of the people of the community and when it comes to sexual abuse in the first degree, they have spoken loud and clear—with harsh sentences.

“The will of the people as expressed through our laws must be followed by this court,” Wiseman said.

He said the victim’s version of what happened in this matter as well as the adverse effect it has had and will continue to have on her years of youth is of great concern to the court and to the community because it will most likely affect her for a long time.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher had recommended a sentence of 30 years in prison, all suspended except for 18 years, without parole. The defense asked for 10 years. Santos eventually got 15 years.

He will be placed on probation after serving his sentence and will be required to register as a sex offender. He was also ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine, \$100 court assessment fee, and probation fees in an amount to be determined by the Office of Adult Probation.

If appropriate, Wiseman said, Santos shall pay restitution to

the victim in an amount to be set by the court. He will also foot the bill for the victim’s future psychological evaluation/counseling/treatment costs, if any.

The judge directed Santos to undergo evaluation at the Community Guidance Center for any counseling.

Santos was ordered to write letters of apology to the victim and her family.

Santos and three others reportedly abducted the student in Kagman on June 15, 2010, and brought her to Tank Beach where she was raped.

\$3M poker revenue bill now Saipan local law

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Saipan lawmakers appropriated more than what's projected to be generated from poker license fees, so at least 16 proposed programs and activities will be funded only after a \$3.1 million allotment for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance and its operations and personnel has been satisfied.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos approved yesterday a local bill appropriating \$3.454 million in revenue from poker license fees.

He did not line-item veto the bill, but he said it is anticipated that the projected amount to be collected in fiscal year 2011 will not reach \$3.454 million as ap-

propriated in House Local Bill 17-33, Draft 7.

The bill is now Saipan Local Law 17-9.

Based on the trend of license renewals, the Department of Finance anticipates a 2.6-percent drop in collections, Inos said. Therefore, Sections 2(B)(2) thru 2(B)(17) "will be allotted proportionately based on collections" after the \$3.1 million is satisfied for qualified recipients and for the operations of the SHEFA scholarship program.

Inos cautioned all expenditure authorities to adhere to restrictions outlined in the bill on how the funds are to be spent.

Inos said the SHEFA board, for one, must take note of the section that specifically prohibits the use

of the \$100,000 operations appropriation for any consulting and/or professional services contracts.

Of the \$3.454 million appropriated by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, \$3 million is for SHEFA scholarship while \$100,000 is for SHEFA operations and personnel.

The rest, totaling \$354,000, is divided among 16 programs and activities that will have to be allotted proportionately after the \$3.1 million for SHEFA has been satisfied.

These include \$25,000 for the Saipan Little League; \$20,000 for the 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival; \$75,000 for the Saipan Zoning; \$10,000 for the Agricultural Fair; \$5,000 for the CNMI Boy Scouts Program;

\$45,000 for the Liberation Day activities; and \$10,000 for the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

The others are: \$10,000 for the purchase of riding mowers, bush cutters and other maintenance equipment for the Oleai Sports Complex and Cow Town Race Track; \$10,000 for the upcoming Pacific Mini Games and \$10,000 for the Pacific Games Bidding Committee; \$15,000 for the Neighborhood Watch Program; \$5,000 for the construction of a Precinct 1 bus shelter; and \$10,000 for the construction of a Precinct 5 bus shelter.

Completing the list are: \$39,000 for the purchase of maintenance equipment for all public schools; \$50,000 for the Northern

Marianas Trade Institute's personnel and textbook purchase; \$10,000 for the Saipan Fishing Derby; and \$5,000 for the 30th Annual Flame Tree Festival insurance premium.

The new Saipan local law also re-appropriates the balance of Saipan Local Law 14-31 amounting to \$8,791 for a Precinct 1 pedestrian crosswalk project.

The delegation earlier said

the bill appropriated \$3.464 million; but the administration said it's \$3.454 million. Saipan lawmakers took 11 months to pass the bill

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), author of the bill, told *Saipan Tribune* that he thanks the acting governor "for acting quickly to sign the local appropriation bill into law and also for not (making a) line-item veto."

Transition team formed for incoming NMC president

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A transition team composed of deans and presidents of governance bodies at the Northern Marianas College has been created to assist the institution's incoming president.

Dr. Sharon Hart has been hired as the new NMC president effective July 5. The transition team will be providing her all the information and assistance that she will need once she gets in.

Interim college president Lorraine T. Cabrera told the Board of Regents Monday that

the transition team is composed of individuals who report directly to the president's office, with the exception of the governance council heads.

Cabrera said she also included in the group the presidents of the faculty senate, staff senate, and Associated Students of NMC so they could share in the decision-making process of the new president.

However, it would still be up to the new CEO if she will retain the group's composition, Cabrera said.

She said that the college's human resource manager,

Bobby Hunter, is in constant communication with Dr. Hart, who is reportedly busy packing for her relocation.

The schedule to introduce Dr. Hart to the college community is now being finalized, Cabrera said, as well as her formal introduction to members of the Legislature, Fital administration, and community members. A "meet and greet" with the new NMC president and other community-outreach programs are also being eyed.


Board chair Juan Lizama instructed Cabrera to do what is necessary to ensure a

smooth transition.

NMC has had no permanent president since January last year when Dr. Carmen Fernandez was suspended and later fired by the board due to alleged wrongdoings.

Meantime, Lizama and Cabrera flew to San Francisco Monday night to participate in the accreditation commission assembly, where the two are expected to be asked about the college's accreditation.

NMC was placed on continued show-cause status after the commission found repeat deficiencies in its operation and management. Its fate will be decided by the commissioners after this month's meeting.




Protecting Your Eyes From the Sun

The sun's primary danger is in the form of ultraviolet (UV) radiation. This can have adverse long and short-term effects on the eyes and your vision. There are many things you can do to prevent this, especially wearing sunglasses and lenses that offer UV protection. We welcome you to come in and talk to us about what you can do to protect yourself.

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War of words between SHEFA exec, NMTI owner heats up

»Board reaffirms decision not to give away funds

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The tug of war between the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance and Northern Marianas Trade Institute founder Anthony Pellegrino over funding has taken a nasty turn, with SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider claiming that Pellegrino had threatened him and Pellegrino denying the allegation.

During yesterday's meeting of the SHEFA board, Hofschneider told the board that Pellegrino had threatened him in a recent exchange of emails where discussions centered

on funds the institute is asking from SHEFA.

In a copy of the email exchange obtained by the *Saipan Tribune*, Pellegrino wrote Hofschneider on May 25, asking him for a "civil discussion" on matters concerning the trade institute. In the same communication, Pellegrino said, "Neither of us will enjoy the alternate result if we cannot talk decently and sincerely to one another. It will not be pleasant."

Hofschneider believes this statement is threatening in nature. "I took his remarks as a threat. I didn't ask him what are his intentions if I didn't meet

with him...but I told him that I didn't appreciate that," Hofschneider told the board.

But Pellegrino, in an email dated May 27, indicated that he's not threatening Hofschneider or SHEFA.

"I am not threatening. I never do that. But after two years of talk and talk from SHEFA and no concrete results, the feelings begin to bend," said Pellegrino, adding that there is a March 2009 law that requires SHEFA to share its funds with the trades institute.

Pellegrino pointed out that over 150 NMTI students have applied for SHEFA scholar-

ships but only 10 have been approved so far.

Hofschneider told the board, however, that NMTI applicants keep asking his office for denial letters so they could use it as proof at the Workforce Investment Agency and food stamp office to obtain financial assistance.

"It's untrue because NMTI students turn in incomplete applications and at the same time ask for denial letters. In fact, there was a template of a denial letter prepared even before I came onboard at SHEFA. I told my staff to stop giving them denial letters," said Hofschneider, adding that Pellegrino claims he is not aware of this practice.

Board chair Jose Mafnas ex-

pressed surprise at the administrator's revelation. "The students turned in incomplete applications and asked and begged to be denied by SHEFA? Wow!"

Mafnas reaffirmed the board's position that it will not give away or share SHEFA's budget with the trades institute.

According to Mafnas, the institute's students are welcome to apply for assistance but they cannot demand to be given top priority. SHEFA regulations place priority on undergraduates, master's degree students, online students, and then NMTI students.

"But it's not true that NMTI is being kicked in the pants by SHEFA as claimed by Mr. Pel-

legrino," said Mafnas.

NMTI earlier asked that 25 percent of SHEFA's \$3 million annual budget be allocated to the institute for the next three years so it could sustain its operations. A bill was introduced to this effect but this was opposed by SHEFA. In a recent meeting among parties, a \$50,000 assistance for the institute was contemplated.

"As for Rep. Ray Palacios' bill, it was for a lousy \$50,000. Your group [SHEFA] picked up \$100,000 just for administration!" said Pellegrino in his letter to the administrator, pointing out that the institute is educating people, just like what SHEFA is trying to do.

Speaker asks Palacios to remain committee chairman

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) did not accept Rep. Joseph Palacios's (R-Saipan) resignation as chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee and asked him yesterday to remain with the leadership.

Palacios gave in to the speaker's request and will be staying on as committee chairman, a day after submitting his resignation letter out of "frustration" and "disappointment" with some members of the House leadership.

Cabrera met with members of the House leadership yes-

terday to talk about Palacios' concerns.

He and Palacios said members admitted that they have been overwhelmed with other professional and personal responsibilities, which sometimes result in their inability to review bills assigned by the speaker to the Natural Resources Committee and other panels.

Palacios said some members have been uncooperative and not been upfront with their concerns on bills until they are taken up on the floor. He said members have also been voting against committee reports and bills that have long been assigned to the committee, which he has been

heading since October.

The speaker said they will make it a point to have a regular leadership meeting to check on the progress of each committee or leadership member's work.

Former speaker and now Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) appointed Palacios as committee chairman on Oct. 18, 2010, replacing Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) who was removed from her post for voting along with the minority and not the majority.

Cabrera said yesterday he hopes that from now on, members will be more cooperative and understanding of each other's concerns.

ICE arrests another suspect in recruitment scam

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested on Sunday another person allegedly involved in a fraudulent scheme to invite Chinese nationals to come to the CNMI as tourists and then work in a bar and farm.

ICE agents arrested Li Hua, a female Chinese national, at Saipan International Airport as she was leaving Saipan for China.

Hua was taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday afternoon on charges of six counts of encouraging six aliens to come to the CNMI to unlawfully work while paroled in as tourists.

Hua was allegedly responsible for recruiting the six persons in China, while another defendant,

Honglian Cheng, was allegedly responsible for bringing the six to Saipan.

ICE agents arrested Cheng last Friday at the airport as she was leaving Saipan for China.

ICE special agent Isra D. Harahap stated in his affidavit that four Chinese females and the two Chinese males paid about 30,000 RMB or \$4,600 each to be brought to the CNMI in order to work.

Harahap said the females are Cuilan Ma, Chunping Li, Lifei Bian, and Shoujun Yin, while the males are Zhongjun Yu and Zhipeng Ren.

Harahap said that Hua and Cheng arrived with the six Chinese nationals in the early

morning of May 30, 2011, at Saipan International Airport. During immigration inspection, Hua and the six persons stated that they planned to stay on Saipan for seven days as tourists. Cheng identified herself as the tour group leader for the other seven.

The immigration officers allowed the eight to be paroled into the CNMI until June 15, 2011.

Harahap said their confidential source, who was paid \$1,000 to pick up the group at the airport, brought them to a hotel. The confidential source later moved the six to apartments and barracks, then Cheng allegedly gave them job application forms. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-040 DEBT COLLECTION LEGAL SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from from debt collection attorneys to assist in the collection of delinquent utility billings for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The CUC intends to place selected accounts with one or more attorney. Submitted proposals must indicate how the CUC will be kept informed of the progress of each account placed with the attorney, as well as provide a summary and detail report of all accounts placed. In addition, proposals must provide for the total listing of the gross amount of all collections with a separate billing for attorney services rendered.

The RFP Package and the Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **June 16, 2011 at 11:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Main Conference Room No. 10, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-040, Debt Collection Legal Services" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than July 08, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 20, 2011 to Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email address charles_warren@cucgov.net; Mr. Manuel Sablan Purchasing Officer msablan@cucgov.net; and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-039

PETROLEUM PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

Closing Date: 06/16/2011, 10:00 AM (ChST)

Please register for the complete Scope-of-work and Project details at CUC website: <http://cuccnmi.net> **PROJECT COMMENCES IN JUNE, 2011.**

/s/ **ABE UTU MALAE**
Executive Director



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP11-DPW/ED-099

SUBMISSION DATE: DATE: JULY 11, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROJECT AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR ARRA ENERGY PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSTRUCTION BLOCK GRANT"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **JUNE 08, 2011** AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED AT THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO eebcg_cm@recovery.gov.mp

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **JUNE 24, 2011 at 9:00 A.M.**, AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, GUALO RAI COMMERCIAL BUILDING.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA EMAIL TO eebcg_cm@recovery.gov.mp OR FAXED TO (670) 234-3016 NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS **JUNE 29, 2011**.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA**
CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD

/s/ **THELMA B. INOS**
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIV.

Fall scholars face another drastic cut in financial grants

»SHEFA board eyes termination of either field-of-study or incentive awards

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Scholars of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance will see a 25- to 50-percent cut in their financial awards beginning fall semester 2012, according to board chair Jose Mafnas.

This is due to the dwindling financial situation of the program, which relies solely on revenues from poker machines and licenses.

"Based on anticipated funds from

poker fees, we're seeing a bad figure so we really need to make a decision. Definitely, there will be another cut on the scholars' financial assistance...if not the same [as last time] it may probably be higher for fall 2012 semester," said Mafnas.

This "adjustment" is the only way the board can ensure the continuity of SHEFA's programs, he added.

Besides the reduction in financial awards, the board is also looking into terminating either the field of study

grant or the incentive award, Mafnas said after yesterday's board meeting.

Yesterday, the awards committee was tasked to come up with the final recommendation in anticipation of the start of the fall 2012 semester in August. Mafnas said SHEFA has only two options now: either terminate two programs or drastically reduce all three scholarship awards.

It was only on Jan. 11 this year when the board—for the same reason—approved an across-the-board cut on all scholarship grants for spring 2011 recipients.

SHEFA's \$3 million annual budget is divvied up among three scholarship programs: grant-in-aid, priority field of study, and incentive awards.

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider earlier explained that because field of study and incentive grants cater to specialized courses, many scholars get them on top of the grant-in-aid award.

Mafnas described the planned adjustment as tough for the board but is the most "realistic" approach.

The chairman, who is also the Di-

vision of Tax and Revenue director, disclosed that only about 45 poker machines are up for renewal from this month to December.

The board chairman believes that the delay in the issuance of financial aids to students was also a result of "too many" recipients and "unrealistic" grant amounts.

The Legislature earlier estimated poker revenues to reach \$3.4 million this year, an amount Mafnas believes may not happen due to poker establishments closing down and machine licenses not being renewed.

There were 1,414 poker machines in the CNMI in late 2005, contributing some \$16.4 million to government coffers.

Transportation is the biggest challenge for island's thespians

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Transportation is by far the biggest challenge for the Thespian of the Western Pacific Islands, the CNMI Thespian chapter affiliated with the Educational Theatre Association.

"Our biggest need is transportation. Choruses and theater groups move light. We don't need props, we don't need sets, they all know how to mime, singers can sing, the sound equipment we take is minor. The transportation, on the other hand, is major," said chapter director Harold Easton.

Easton, guest speaker at the Saipan Rotary Club meeting Tuesday, explained that the TWPI recently had a big influx of students who need to be moved around because of the Marianas High School choral group.

Members of the choral group, Easton said, are among the participants for the 2011 Thespian Festival to be held on June 20 to 25 at the University of Lincoln-Nebraska.

Categories for the festival include monologue, duet acting, solo musical theater, mime, set design, costume design, film, with the recent addition of group musical theater.

According to Easton, the school buses owned by the Public School System cannot accommodate these students as these are already tied up in transporting

other students to and from school.

"We have school vans but they're not big enough," said Easton as he explained that it would take one van several trips to move the entire choral group.

Easton also noted that they need community members who can serve as judges in the four to five competitions they conduct each year that determine participants in the annual Thespian Festival through a point system.

Community judges, Easton said, are generally more flexible than those who are associated with the theater.

Easton said students participating in this year's Thespian Festival have already presented their individual events to the public at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center last Monday.

At 6:30pm on Thursday, they will put on their three group shows also at the center.

"Our students do very well. They're highly talented, they work very hard in what they do," said Easton.

TWPI is an honor society and Thespian chapter made up of various troops consisting of students from grades 6 to 12 in different schools.

The group holds a number of events annually, including Thespian chapter play and several competitions. For information, call Harold Easton at 237-3230 or email Frank Gibson of the Friends of the Arts, which supports the TWPI, at fgibson@yahoo.com.



Easton

Bank donates \$3K, umbrellas for Flame Tree Arts Festival

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bank of Guam has joined the roster of sponsors and donors for the celebration of the 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival this year.

Vice president and regional manager Marcie M. Tomokane and assistant vice president and branch manager Larry A. Philip presented a \$3,000 check and a box of Bank of Guam umbrellas to Arts Council board vice chair Ana S. Teregeyo and executive director Angel S. Hocog in a brief ceremony yesterday morning.

"We're very proud and happy to sponsor the Flame Tree Arts Festival, which is now on its 30th anniversary," said Tomokane. "Since the festival's inception, we've always been supportive of the annual festival, which promotes local artists and their works of art."

Tomokane disclosed that she usually buys trinkets made not only by local artists but also by some international delegates during the festival.

"The festival is also a very important venue for artists to share their talents to their fellow artists, the community, and internationally through off-island delegates and guests," she said.

According to Tomokane, "If there's any way that we can help the Arts Council and the local artists, we would be glad to help."

Teregeyo expressed her appreciation to Bank of Guam on behalf of the Arts Council and the Flame Tree Arts Festival Committee for their continuous



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Bank of Guam vice president and regional manager Marcie M. Tomokane, second from right, hands the \$3,000 check donation for the 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival celebration to Arts Council board vice chair Ana S. Teregeyo in a brief ceremony yesterday morning. Tomokane and assistant vice president and branch manager Larry A. Philip, left, also donated a box of umbrellas to Teregeyo and Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog.

support in promoting arts and culture in the Commonwealth.

"The 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is a big event that upholds our pool of local artists who deserve to be celebrated for their vision and creativeness," added Teregeyo.

Hocog also announced that DFS Galleria made a \$1,000 donation on top of the \$3,000 donation they already gave on May 24. Moreover, Younis Arts Studio has agreed to sponsor print media advertisements beginning last week

and leading to the event.

"We want to thank all our generous sponsors for their donations that will make the 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival truly a success," said Hocog.

The festival will be held on June 9-12 at the American Memorial Park, west of the Bell Tower in Garapan. This year's theme is "Celebrating 30 years of Uniting Cultures and Traditions."

For more information, call the Arts Council at 322-9982 or 83 or email at ftat30@yahoo.com.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SEMAKAU	017E	5/28 Sat	5/26 Thu	5/26 Thu	5/24 Tue	5/21 Sat	6/3 Fri	5/30 Mon	5/29 Sun	5/22 Sun	5/22 Sun	5/30 Mon	6/3 Fri	6/5 Sun	6/7 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	056E	6/4 Sat	6/2 Thu	6/2 Thu	5/31 Tue	5/28 Sat	6/10 Fri	6/6 Mon	6/5 Sun	5/29 Sun	5/29 Sun	6/6 Mon	6/10 Fri	6/12 Sun	6/14 Tue
MELL SARACA	048E	6/11 Sat	6/9 Thu	6/9 Thu	6/7 Tue	6/4 Sat	6/17 Fri	6/13 Mon	6/12 Sun	6/5 Sun	6/5 Sun	6/13 Mon	6/17 Fri	6/19 Sun	6/21 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA	ETD	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
		Guam													
MELL SEMAKAU	017E	6/11 Sat	6/12 Sun	6/12 Sun	6/14 Tue	6/15 Wed	6/17 Fri	6/19 Sun	SKIP	6/24 Fri	6/25 Sat	6/30 Thu	7/19 Tue	7/3 Sun	6/29 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	056E	6/18 Sat	6/19 Sun	6/19 Sun	SKIP	6/22 Wed	6/24 Fri	6/26 Sun	SKIP	7/1 Fri	7/2 Sat	7/7 Thu	7/26 Tue	7/10 Sun	7/6 Wed
MELL SARACA	048E	6/25 Sat	6/26 Sun	6/26 Sun	6/27 Mon	6/29 Wed	7/1 Fri	7/3 Sun	SKIP	7/8 Fri	7/9 Sat	7/14 Thu	8/2 Tue	7/17 Sun	7/13 Wed
MELL SEMAKAU	018E	7/2 Sat	7/3 Sun	7/3 Sun	SKIP	7/6 Wed	7/8 Fri	7/10 Sun	SKIP	7/15 Fri	7/16 Sat	7/21 Thu	8/9 Tue	7/24 Sun	7/20 Wed
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Ogumoro wants more than 3 miles of submerged lands

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

On the day that House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) invited Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan to their session, vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) pre-filed a joint resolution urging the U.S. Congress to convey 200 miles of submerged lands to the CNMI.

Ogumoro's proposal is much more than what Sablan's HR 670 is proposing, which seeks to convey 3 miles of submerged lands to the CNMI.

Sablan repeatedly said it will be impossible to get all the 200 miles that Ogumoro

wants, adding that the CNMI spent 14 years on the same proposal but failed.

The delegate said his HR 670 has received support from the House, just like in the previous Congress. But the U.S. Senate blocked his previous bill, prompting him to reintroduce it this year.

Short of saying a 200-mile proposal is a long shot, Sablan said "claiming something does not necessarily mean we can get it."

He called on the CNMI government to rally behind his HR 670, and once it passes the U.S. House and Senate and becomes law, then he will work on ex-

panding the 3 miles.

The speaker said Oumoro's joint resolution will be taken up during the next session, since copies of it were distributed only on Monday and members need time to review it.

For the first time in the 17th Legislature, Ogumoro used a lectern placed in front of the chamber and read a five-page prepared privilege speech to justify her House Joint Resolution 17-36.

Her resolution requests and urges the U.S. Congress "to recognize the longstanding ancestral rights of persons of Northern Marianas descent with respect to their ownership of the

submerged lands for the Northern Mariana Islands and its adjacent waters."

Ogumoro said this is in accordance with the Covenant and the Constitution.

"The submerged lands and the waters adjacent to our islands belong to our people," Ogumoro said.

Sablan, during a question-and-answer with House members, said even bigger and mightier U.S. states have not gotten more than what they have asked for. He cited Hawaii and California as examples; the latter, he said, has been battling for control of over 12 miles of submerged lands.

Marianas shark fin law to be highlighted at APIL

The recently enacted law banning the sale, trade, and possession of shark fin in the Northern Mariana Islands will be highlighted at this month's



SPEED READER

Angela Kim, a fifth grader at Saipan International School, has read 2,479,683 words and 168 books this year. The Accelerated Reading program at SIS is in its second year and has improved the reading comprehension and vocabulary of all students from kindergarten to 9th grade. Kim has acquired over 350 points that she uses to obtain prizes. At this point in the year, all fifth graders are required to have 175 points. She has more than doubled the required amount. She is an amazing student and continues to strive to do her best everyday. Good job, Angela!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

meeting of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

Rep. Diego T. Benavente has been invited to speak on the subject and will premiere Rob Stewart's new short video, *Sharkwater Saipan*. Benavente introduced the shark fin bill, which was signed into law on Jan. 27, 2011, by Gov. Be-

nigno R. Fitial.

Sharkwater Saipan tells the story of Kathy Pagapular's sixth-grade class at San Vicente Elementary School and how a class project led to the world's second shark fin ban. The video features interviews with Pagapular and the students, as well as Bena-

vente and Beautify CNMI's Cinta Kaipat.

"I hope this video inspires kids around the world to help save their sharks," said filmmaker Stewart.

A preview of *Sharkwater Saipan* will play on KSPN 2 on World Ocean's Day during the 6 O'Clock News.

CUC sets 3-hour power outage Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power interruption affecting two feeders this Saturday, June 11, 2011, from 5am through 8am.

The purpose of the power interruption is to provide safety to the line crew as they perform maintenance on the electrical grid. The power interruption will affect both Feeder 2 second partial and Feeder 3 second partial as the line crew installs an air break switch on the primary lines on Quarter Master Road in Chalan Laulau.

The air break switch is an isolation switch that provides the line crew the ability to isolate specific areas of the electrical

grid when needed and the option to back feed the electrical current from another feeder to energize non-problematic areas. This ability will assist the crews in minimizing any inconvenience to its consumers and the public when performing future maintenance and repairs to the electrical system. CUC will be installing eight other ABSs throughout the island over the next few weeks.

In addition, other crews will be replacing a deteriorated power pole on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Feeder 3 second partial, while others will clear primary lines on Beach Road, Feeder 2 second partial, of vegetation.

Areas to be affected include:

■ **Feeder 2 (second partial):** Fishing Base, Garapan south on Beach Road to the Beach Road/Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road Intersection

■ **Feeder 3 (second partial):** Upper Chinatown, As Falape, Gualo Rai Traffic Light on Chalan Pale Arnold Road south to Hertz Car Rental to include Quarter Master Road.

"CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this scheduled power interruption may impose on the community and its consumers and will continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions," a CUC news release states. (CUC)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 8, 1999

DOC begins probe of consumer prices

The Department of Commerce has begun probing into consumer prices in response to a request from a legislator, but has asked for sufficient time to complete its investigation in view of the scope of the undertaking, which will involve government agencies and several commercial establishments. "As requested, we will initiate an investigation into the matter and provide you with our conclusions," said Commerce Sec. Frankie B. Villanueva in a letter to Rep. Melvin Faisao. The representative has prodded DOC as well as the Department of Finance and the Attorney General to investigate shipping companies, wholesalers and retailers who may have a hand in jacking up the cost of goods being sold on the island.

Filipino workers are invited to join SSS

The Social Security System of the Philippine government is inviting overseas Filipino workers to continue their monthly contributions and avail of its medical, pension and loan benefits. According to the information sent to the Philippine Consulate here, OFWs can now apply for voluntary membership with SSS. Eligible for the voluntary SSS membership are those Filipino workers who are under 60 years old and whose monthly contributions were interrupted by separation from previous employment. They are asked to submit proof of their birth, baptismal certificate or passport, and marriage contract if applicable. For those who will be listing names of their children as beneficiaries, legal certifications are needed to support their relationship with the member.

June 8, 2000

NMIRF taps M&I for securities lending

The Northern Marianas Retirement Fund Board has chosen M&I (Marshall and Isley) Investment Management Company to do securities lending investment, according to its administrator, Juan S. Torres. He said M&I's appointment was based on the recommendation of the Fund's Investment Committee, which conducted a thorough analysis of the offers made by the firms that were short listed by Merrill Lynch, the Fund's consultant. "M&I offers a better package to fit our desire for portfolio diversification and at the same time realizing minimal risk," Mr. Torres said. The Committee, composed of Board of Trustees Marian Tudela, Charles P. Reyes and Susana T. Mafinas, has determined that the Fund can generate between \$50,000 to \$75,000 a year and more as the Fund grows from investment in securities lending.

McAuliffe scholarships go for 3rd round

The Public School System is still seeking for seven more applicants for the Christa McAuliffe teacher's scholarship to complete a total of 10 awards it is set to give away for qualified CNMI teachers. Federal Programs Coordinator Bill Matson said PSS is going for a third round in its information dissemination drive in light of the low application turn-ins in the past couple of months. PSS attributes to the lack of interest among teachers to apply for the scholarship to very busy schedules.

June 8, 2003

Group revisits tree-planting site

Members and volunteers of Team Responsible for Environmental Enhancement of Saipan, or TREES, took on the overgrown weeds surrounding the trees and flowering shrubs that the group planted over a month ago along As Perdido and Texas roads in Chalan Kanoa. TREES vice president Ken Kramer previously explained to the students from Mt. Carmel School and William S. Reyes Elementary School during the planting event that the first three months of plant transplanting is the most crucial time to ensure proper and healthy growth. Along with Scott Crockett of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Ken presented to WSR principal Alfred Ada a conservation plan for the school grounds that included the care of the newly transplanted trees and shrubs in one of the school's more prominent corners.

SNILD approves ID card program

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation adopted this week a local bill that seeks to establish an identification card program for residents in the Third Senatorial District. The ID program, proposed under House Local Bill 13-5, is seen to confirm the identities of Saipan residents who move about the community without a valid driver's license or other forms of identification. Proponents of HLB 13-5 acknowledged that while local banks, stores and other business establishments require proper identification to cash checks, there are still many residents who do not possess a driver's license or other ID cards.

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Saipan Tribune, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

Can You Identify?



The two girls in last March 24's photo were identified, from left, as Matilde V. Deleon Guerrero and Margarita Aguon. Identified by Juan C. Diaz.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

Explore the underwater wonders of Managaha with MVA

Have you lived in the Northern Marianas “forever,” but never explored the underwater wonders of Managaha that attract tens of thousands of visitors annually?

On June 18, 2011, the Marianas Visitors Authority will provide an opportunity for residents to safely see the awe-inspiring marine world of Managaha under the watchful eyes of safety crews during the 3rd Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race Tournament.

The tournament will allow participants to circumnavigate the 1.5-km island at a leisurely pace, using masks, snorkels, flippers, and life jackets, if desired.

“While our primary target for this event is to attract more visitors, we realize that many local residents have never had the opportunity to enjoy what our visitors enjoy everyday underwater at Managaha,” said MVA Community Projects manager



Martin Duenas. “The tournament is really a great opportunity to do that, especially as we

will have safety personnel in the water along the course. In many places, the water is also shallow

enough to stand up.”
Managaha and its surround-

◀ The the 3rd Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race Tournament will take place on June 18, 2011, and will circumnavigate Managaha Island, a tiny island in the lagoon of Saipan. LIAN WOO

ing waters were declared a marine conservation area by law in 2000.

Over 30 participants from Japan have already confirmed to make the three-hour flight to Saipan for the annual signature event of the MVA. The event is also sponsored by the Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan.

Ferries depart promptly at 4:45am the morning of the race, carrying participants, officials, and spectators to Managaha. The race starts at 6:30am, with an island-style breakfast and awards ceremony at 9am on the white sand beaches of Managaha.

For participants in the mood to compete, there will be several age divisions: 19-29, 30-39, 40-49,

50-59, 60 and up. Those age 18 and under will be entered in the Junior Division.

The cost is \$25 for Northern Marianas residents with I.D. The deadline to register with the MVA is Friday, June 17, 2011, from 4pm to 6pm during the orientation at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Saipan. Participants must be in good health with snorkeling or diving experience. Mask, snorkel, fins, and wetsuit or life jacket are required.

For more information or to register, contact the MVA at 1 (670) 664-3200/01 or send inquiries to Edward Diaz at ediaz@mymarianas.com or Frank Tudela at ftudela@mymarianas.com. (MVA)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Red Cross annual meeting tonight

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross is having its annual meeting tonight, Wednesday June 8, 2011, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the Chapter office on Airport Road. All volunteers, donors, and others interested in the Red Cross are welcome to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to hold elections of the voting members of its board of directors, review reports by Chapter directors, and transact other business as it may come before the meeting. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the Chapter office at 234-3459. (ARC)

Free training on native assets building initiatives

Learn how to increase asset building and financial education in the CNMI. Attend a free training on Thursday and Friday, June 9 – 10, 2011, from 9am to 4pm on both days at the office of the Inetnon Amot yanKutturNatiibu/Mwuwischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw at 1213 Capital Hill Rd. on Capital Hill, across from the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office.

The Administration for Native Americans and the Office of Community Services Assets for Financial Independence program have partnered to promote asset building in native communities. This pre-application training will include information on applying for funding through a new OCS and ANA initiative that will support comprehensive asset building projects in native communities. The training is free to tribes and Native American, Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian, and U.S. Pacific Islander non-profit organizations. You can register online at www.anapacificbasin.org, or e-mail: Keone.nunes@ackco.

com or you may come in as a walk-in on Thursday. (PR)

Security orientation

The 3S Saipan Security Service will be hosting a security guard orientation for their current staff at the American Memorial Park, Visitor Center Theatre on June 18. It will run three hours from 8am to 11am. Anyone from the community that is interested in becoming a security guard is welcome to attend the orientation. Subjects that will be covered are customer service, report writing, proper communication and other items. 3S is a sister organization of Saipan City Taxi Association. (PR)

Alcohol license renewal now being accepted

The Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division is reminding all licensed business establishments that applications for Alcoholic Beverage Control license renewals are now being accepted.

Application forms may be obtained from the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division at the Department of Commerce, Donni Hill Complex, Capitol Hill Road, Pohnpei Street, anytime between 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday except austerity Fridays, weekends, and legal holidays.

All licensed businesses in Rota and Tinian may pick up application forms from the Commerce resident department head on Rota and Tinian. Application forms may also be downloaded at www.commerce.gov.mp.

The deadline for filing of renewal applications, including payment of fees, is on June 30, 2011. For more information, call the ABTC Division at 664-3065. (PR)

Air Force training on FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training on the

island of Farallon de Medinilla on June 10, from 8am to 2:30pm.

The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

Final MHS Class of 1991 reunion meeting on June 10

The Marianas High School Class of 1991 will be having its final meeting for its 20th reunion. Class members will be meeting on June 10, 2011, at the 13 Fishermen’s Pavilion (2nd Pavilion) on Beach Road at 6pm to plan for the reunion. Final collection of the \$22 banquet fee will be done at the meeting. It will also be the final day for payment for T-shirt orders (small-XL: \$9 or XXL \$9.50). (PR)

Public hearings on Saipan casino bill

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation’s committees on Judiciary and Government Operation and Ways and Means will be conducting public hearings for House Local Bills 17-44, or the Saipan and Northern Islands Casino Control Act of 2011 at the following locations:

■ Wednesday, June 8, Dandan Elementary School, 6pm

■ Friday, June 19, Kagman Elementary School, 6pm

■ Monday, June 13, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, 6pm

For copies of HLB 17-44 visit www.cnmileg.gov.mp. Submit written comments three days prior to the public hearing. Contact the offices of Rep. Joseph M. Palacios (664-8830; rep.palaciosj@cnmileg.gov.mp) or Rep. Ray M. Yumul (664-8826; rayyumul@saipan.com) for further information. (PR)

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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By GREGORY RODRIGUEZ

Los Angeles Times

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The unhappy white majority

“White Americans See Anti-White Bias on the Rise.” That was a headline in the *Wall Street Journal* in May, and more than any other domestic index or statistic, it’s that sentiment that should worry you about America’s future.

While many commentators saw Barack Obama’s election as signaling the emergence of a post-racial America, it might one day be seen instead as the symbolic moment all Americans became minorities.

I don’t mean this in a demographic sense. There are only four states in which “non-Hispanic whites”—the term the census uses—aren’t in the majority. For all the demographic changes the United States is undergoing, most states will continue to have a white majority as far as anyone is willing to predict.

But symbolic minority status is another matter. It refers to the point of view of what the dictionary describes as “a population differing from others in some characteristics and often subjected to differential treatment.”

The *Wall Street Journal* headline was referring to a survey by Michael I. Norton, of Harvard Business School, and Samuel R. Sommers, a professor of psychology at Tufts University. The researchers contacted a national random sample of 209 whites and 208 blacks and asked them, on a scale from 1 to 10, the extent to which they felt blacks and whites were the target of discrimination from the 1950s to the 2000s.

Black respondents saw anti-black bias decline steadily, from 9.7 on the scale in the 1950s to 6.1 in the 2000s. During that same period, they thought anti-white bias increased marginally, from 1.4 to 1.8.

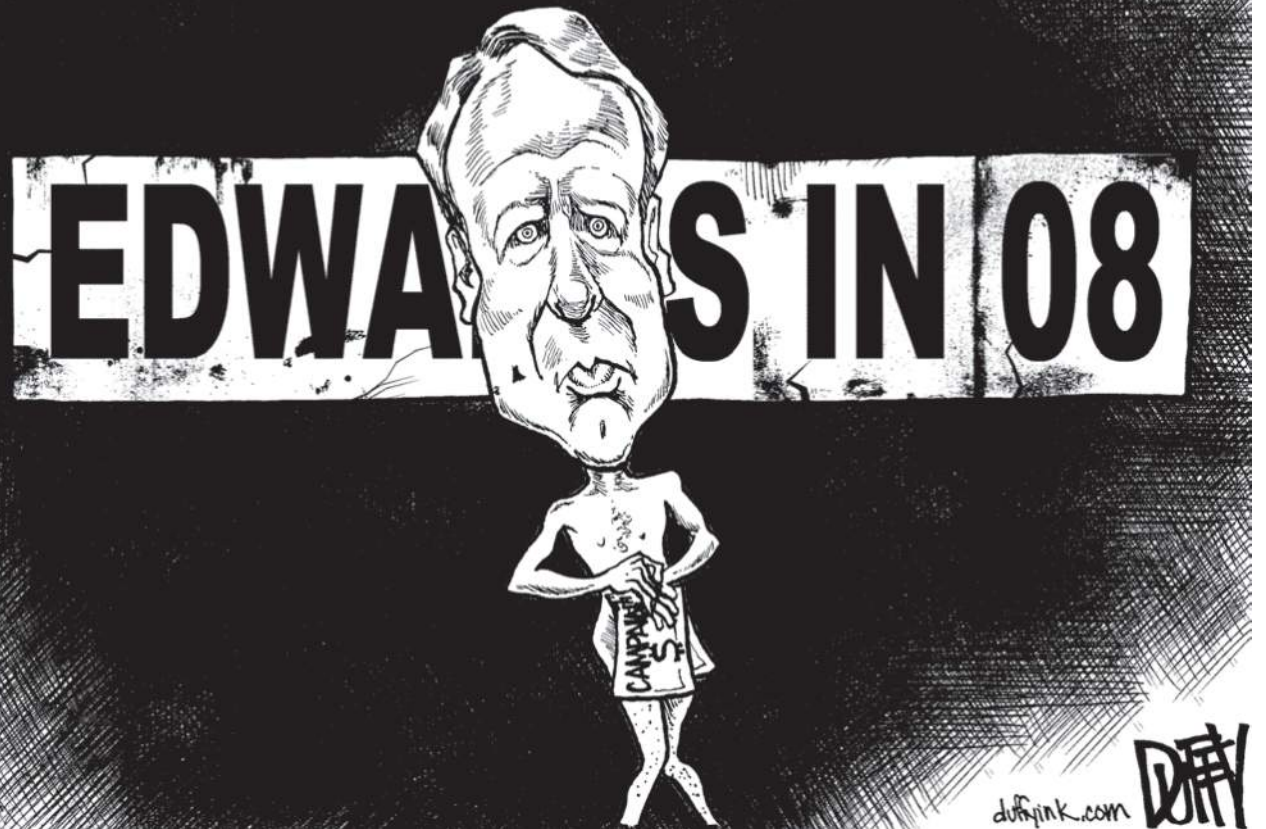
White respondents also saw anti-black bias decline through the decades, but even more dramatically than blacks did, from 9.1 in the 1950s to 3.6 in the 2000s. More significantly, whites also saw anti-white bias shoot up from 1.8 to 4.7 in the same period. As the researchers concluded, over the decades there was a “complete reversal” in whites’ perception of racism. By the 2000s, whites considered anti-white bias to be a greater social problem than anti-black bias.

Norton and Sommers don’t waste time pondering the veracity of that conclusion. By any metric, they write, “from employment to police treatment, loan rates to education—statistics continue to indicate drastically poorer outcomes for black than white Americans.” Instead, they figure this historic flip-flop is not about objective conditions but about how whites conceptualize bias. Norton and Sommers conclude that whites, unlike blacks, view racism as a zero-sum game, a situation in which one side’s gain automatically results only from the other’s loss.

These findings aren’t unexpected. Over the past decade, we’ve seen a rising tide of aggrieved white folks. Accusations of reverse discrimination have increased, along with high-profile court cases like the one filed by firefighters in New Haven, Conn., in which white men claimed they were denied potential promotions because of their race. (The Supreme Court agreed.)

See UNHAPPY on Next Page

SPEAKING OF “WEINER” PROBLEMS.



Human memory: What did you do last Sunday?

I recently enlisted a friend to sit down with me while waiting for our boys to finish a class one Saturday, and we each tried to remember what we had done on the previous Sunday. It was an agonizing exercise that resulted in a blank. I could almost feel the cognitive path my mind was taking, and it always ended with a wall.

Conversations with our respective wives revealed that my friend had spent most of his Sunday on the phone with a computer customer service representative, while I was navigating around giant ketchup bottles at Costco. No wonder we couldn’t remember. We tried the same spontaneous memory test again the following week, with the same troubling outcome.

It seems that we are being robbed of the vast majority of our past on a regular basis. We live it and it’s gone. Why doesn’t more of it stick in memory?

One common assumption in cognitive psychology and neuroscience is that we cannot possibly remember everything because our brains would not be able to hold memories of each and every experience and perception over a lifetime. Instead, we store in long-term memory only what is important. But how does the brain determine what is “important” enough to remain in memory?

Before thinking of memory as a scientist, I used to view it as a mental photo album, there to help me reminisce about precious moments (or dwell on negative ones). But memory is actually more a survival tool than an entertainment platform. We use our experiences, as captured in memory, to anticipate and prepare for upcoming events and encounters. We are all pretty successful fortune tellers: We know what to pack when going on a beach vacation in a new destination; we know which friends will get along well when planning a dinner party. And when an old “friend” from high school finds us on Facebook, we have a good idea of how the interaction will unfold, from the “Is it really you?” to the “Let’s meet for coffee.”

This ability to predict is inherent to the way our brains work. We find analogies between new situations and familiar scenarios, and prepare to act with high precision. Let’s say you get a phone call and an unfamiliar voice asks how you are doing. The background noise tells you that it is a telemarketing call. It does not matter that it is a new person, or that what he is offering is new to you, the situation is similar to many you have already experienced. Once you have recognized this similarity, you execute the same series of actions you have executed numerous times before (apologizing for being too busy to talk, say, or expressing your lack of interest and then hanging up). You do not need much time to weigh your options. You act automatically based on a template of behavior built from experience and stored in memory. This tendency to connect with memory,

By MOSHE BAR

Los Angeles Times

Moshe Bar is an associate professor and director of the Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



generate predictions and then perform a familiar action saves us a lot of time and energy, and in some cases, saves our lives.

The scaffolds for predictions are built on experiences, but these do not necessarily have to be real experiences. Another way to generate “experiences” is through simulated, imagined scenarios, which can later be retrieved as needed just like actual memories.

As we all know from daydreaming, the brain is a spectacular screenwriter. But mind wanderings are not as aimless as they might seem, and discovering their function has been the focus of exciting new research.

When your mind wanders, it often wanders to imagining plausible scenarios that have not yet happened, like what you would do if upon landing you discover that the airline has lost your luggage and you are scheduled to give a talk in two hours. It has not happened, but if it does, you will be ready. Better yet, if you ran this simulation in your mind early enough, you might have packed extra clothes and other essentials for your talk in your carry-on. Such mental simulations are the vehicle of our planning abilities.

Because the brain is such a proactive, relentless generator of predictions, it is always on the lookout for something new. Other than cues of threat in our surroundings, novelty is the most attractive type of input for our brains. (Like many other facts about the human mind, our attraction to novelty has been known to advertisers for ages, judging by the omnipresent “New!” labels on so many not-so-new products.)

In fact, novelty is the primary, if not the primal, trigger of learning. What we learn, what stays in memory, are novel bits of information about our universe, which enrich the pool of scenarios in which we can later produce predictions. And thus, our ability to produce accurate predictions and minimize uncertainty increases with exposure to the new.

So the simple answer to why my friend Roman and I could recall so little from last Sunday is that there was no reason to etch the day into memory; not much had happened that had not happened before. Certainly, nothing is wrong with a pleasant routine, except that there is nothing memorable about it.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Proposed censorship of 4th Estate

There’s a legislative proposal to replace the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Its goal is to deny citizenry its rights to freedom of expression and press. Perhaps the silly season must be nearing its pinnacle, if nothing else. It boggles the mind what comes out of the silly assembly line of the lower chamber up on the hill.

The first amendment is composed of four areas that says in part, “*Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.*” It’s simple and straightforward and if our illustrious lawmakers passed their high school civic classes, then they ought to know the descending order of the supremacy of laws. Not unless they simply choose the side of ignorance in hypnologic state, which doesn’t seem humiliating for them anymore. It’s fodder for laughter among civic class students here.

The libel law is simple: It’s a purposeful lie about someone, often malicious and published. Most educated folks are aware that freedom of expression and of the press comes with responsibility. Citizens can submit dissenting views while the press has the “fair comment” right to say its piece responsibly, scathing as they may be.

You can’t even go after those who use monikers to express their views. Hell, they have anonymity to say their piece. The court can’t force the news organization to divulge their names. Obviously, the truth must hurt after these folks, some of whom you meet daily, have poked or bruised your overblown ego. But it’s a way of issuing performance rating for the effete bunch whose morbid proposal only confirms adolescence.

Good luck! Remember, a local law can’t amend the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It’s not even negotiable but rather an enduring provision that all must follow. Like personal dignity, no one can take it away from you.

As the NMI sinks

The word “confident” comes from the Latin “fido,” meaning “I trust.” The deepening fiscal disaster is called “credit crisis.” The word “credit” derives from the Latin “credo,” meaning “I believe.” There’s more to the term beyond the dual predictions of a rosy or

bleak future.

Though we may have rationalized what’s before or ahead of the NMI (and I doubt legislators have done their due diligence), we may still refuse to act on such rationality not until and unless we can trust what’s before us.

When confidence is gone, businesses withdraw and sell what’s left of their assets in order to collect at least their initial expenses. When the reverse occurs, they move confidently, buying up whatever it takes to move on. We’re in the former category. We no longer have confidence on both sides of the fence—investors and host—and we mull, in paralysis, what lies ahead.

With this in mind, one would reasonably have confidence in legislative leadership that it would critically and jointly review with the administration the huge outflow of revenue (investment). It means prudence and frugal spending from A-Z.

But this isn’t happening! It has decided otherwise by sending members and staff to Palau for a breather, all paid for by hard times-stricken taxpayers. Legislators dither in the midst of a quickly sinking ship! The grand excuse that they’d tackle issues vital for our Micronesian brothers and sisters doesn’t come close to reasoning. It’s shallow rationalization that only demagogues dare use to lie through their teeth!

No surprise for citizenry to express contempt against the Legislature’s shortsighted decision. It’s common sense that you don’t spend money you don’t have in the local coffers. In medical parlance, do you operate on a hemophiliac?

It reads banner headlines in both papers of thematic apology of “delayed” paydays in order to pay CUC, Fund, CHC, and other seriously urgent obligations. And they also want to increase their monthly stipend to \$4,000 per month to ward off the bad times. What about the people you represent in our legislative institution? Ooops! Sorry, I forgot that we fall under your category of non-essentials.

There should come the appropriate time to see all these abuses that caters to your pockets and interest over improving the livelihood of your people. Disgustingly humiliating!

Even though I grew in Los Angeles, my parents passed down the Chamorro culture and all its wonderfully unique customs and traditions. Mom and Dad may have primarily spoken English to my sister and me but grandma was always around and she didn’t speak any English. She always spoke Chamorro to me hence my ability to speak and understand Chamorro today, although my wife says my fluency is “apling” or broken. Growing up, my parents instilled in us respect for others and respect for elders. We would go to baptismal parties or *finakpo novenas* in Long Beach and I had to “amen” all of the elders. These events had all the local food, local music, and local culture. Even when I had my confirmation in the Catholic Church, my uncles brought a pig to our house and roasted it in the backyard over an open fire for the party. My friends were amazed when we actually roasted a pig in the backyard! I am very fortunate because although I was not raised on the islands, I am a very proud Chamorro. I have three beautiful children (and one on the way) with a wonderful Chamorro wife and we will raise our kids with the same love and respect our parents taught us. We will instill our culture in them because that is all we know.

I am even more fortunate because I inherited land from my father and I have enough NMD blood (I am only 50 percent since my mother was a non-NMD) to actually own my inheritance. Ultimately, as a property owner on Saipan, I do not want to be told how to dispose of my property. My wife is 100 percent NMD but she chose to marry me even though I am only 50 percent. This union makes our children 75 percent. Realistically, it may be the case that our children will marry someone with less than 100 percent (like my wife did or my father did) or even 0 percent NMD. It would be most unfortunate if my descendants eventually will not quality to own their inherited land the way I do.

Furthermore, I find it sad that some individuals feel that I will somehow lose my culture if I sell my land to a non-NMD. Selling my property to non-NMD will not result in me and my family losing my culture. What it will do is allow me to sell the land, if I wish to do so, for its actual worth so I can afford my children the education they deserve and the prosperity we all strive for. Otherwise, I may be stuck with selling it to another NMD for a much lower price since the buyer knows there is a limited market of sellers and so he can dictate the price. We should be less concerned with non-NMDs taking over our islands as much as we should be concerned about NMDs taking advantage of the situation and leaving many landless

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



Learning from farmers

It’s good to learn from two groups of folks here: farmers and surfers. The first group plans their entire year in advance of every season. It includes land clearing; selection of fast crops, seed flats preparation, manpower, fertilizer, and insecticides and diversified farming.

As they move along, they secure valuable information of fast moving crops and a solid idea of market places, the taste buds of consumers, etc. No matter the weather, they still move on as difficult as the times may be. In brief, they plan their entire year!

What’s there to learn from surfers? They’re out in the turbulent whip of the trade winds in the lagoon. They size up the situation, count waves, and calculate exactly when to move to ride the largest wave to shore.

But the most difficult aspect of windsurfing is the slam when something is amiss. The surfer comes down heavy, rolls in fatal turbulent waves and whippy wind, trying to figure his way out by the seconds. He gets up, collects his surfboard and sail. Prepares once more and goes for the jugular, time and again. It’s called persistence! This is the seemingly missing vocabulary among leadership when caught slammed by the huge waves of a worsening financial crisis.

If we put our minds together, pounding our chest with *mea culpa* in Washington won’t be so embarrassing. I’m afraid that it’s our last option—beg with *mea culpa* for answers, any answer to domesticate the high cost of utilities, gasoline, basic commodities, etc. Let’s do it and let’s do it now!

Letter to the Editor

Land and culture

I write you today as I feel that our community is being led to believe that we will somehow lose our culture should Article 12 be done away with. I wasn’t born in the Northern Marianas. I never lived on Guam. I spent over 25 years of my life living in the mainland but I am every bit Chamorro as those of you that were born and raised here. Being born and raised in Los Angeles, California, I was exposed to the many cultures that the world had to offer. The neighborhood I grew up in was a melting pot of culture with Japanese-Americans, Mexican-American, African-American, Filipino-Americans, and Korean-Americans. I thought, as a child, how neat it was to go to my many friends’ house, meet their parents and witness their different lifestyles and eat their different types of foods. I got to indulge in authentic Japanese ramen, Mexican refried beans with tortillas, African-American chitlans and collared greens, Filipino chicken adobo (although mom’s estufao was always better), and Korean bulbogi with kimchee. I was the luckiest kid being exposed to all these fabulous cultures and eating all this wonderful food.

Not only was I impressed by these many cultures, my friends also thought that my culture was intriguing and unique. My sister and I were the only Chamorros at school. When I was asked what my nationality was, no one knew Chamorro and was very inquisitive about my culture, including the teachers. I loved having to explain that my dad is from the island of Saipan and my mom from Guam. I loved it so much that whenever we had Social Studies projects I always wanted to do them on the history of the Mariana Islands. My friends loved coming over to my house. They always said our language was peculiar and that they noticed a lot of Spanish words. We would have to explain why our last name was Santos and why our numbers were in Spanish. The best part was feeding my friends, as they loved our food. As we all know, we Chamorro love to eat but even more love to feed our friends and guest as this is part of our culture. My classmates loved *kadun pika* (but not so spicy), *kadun katne* and most especially chicken *kelaguen*. Mom always had to make *kelaguen* and *titiyas* for my friends and she enjoyed doing it. And my friends loved to drown their food with *finadene*!

at very little cost to them.

Many of you know me and now know a little about me. I will live on our beautiful island of Saipan until I live no more. I don’t come from a wealthy family and I have no special interests. Having options to do whatever I want with my personal possessions and property should not be dictated by others and deceitfully telling the masses that we will lose our culture if we sell our land to outsiders is cavalier. My culture did not come through my land; it came through the efforts of my family to keep our heritage alive through me.

Jay Santos
San Vicente, Saipan

UNHAPPY

From Page 10

A November 2010 poll by the Public Religion Research Institute found that 56 percent of Republicans, 57 percent of white evangelicals and 61 percent of “tea party” sympathizers think discrimination against whites has become as big a problem as discrimination against minorities.

Norton and Sommers don’t know exactly why whites view racism as a zero-sum game, but they suggest that affirmative-action policies, designed to increase minority representation in education and hiring, may focus whites’ attention on the “impact of quota-like procedures on their own access” to jobs and colleges.

This doesn’t bode well. When even the majority group sees itself in a struggle for status and respect, it erodes any notion of the collective good. Forget the melting pot or the salad bowl; the metaphor for how we balance diversity and unity is becoming the fighting cage.






Whites have always been susceptible to criticism for assuming they can define “we,” while minorities represent only their discrete parts of the whole. The new research bolsters evidence that whites are abdicating the role as arbiters and upholders of a national consensus.

It’s good news that whites no longer feel that they alone own the nation’s core values. But the failure of even the majority group to look out for the greater good, as opposed to its parochial interests, leaves a vacuum at the center of U.S. life.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 79°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 79°	▲ 88° ▼ 79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 83
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Rain	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78

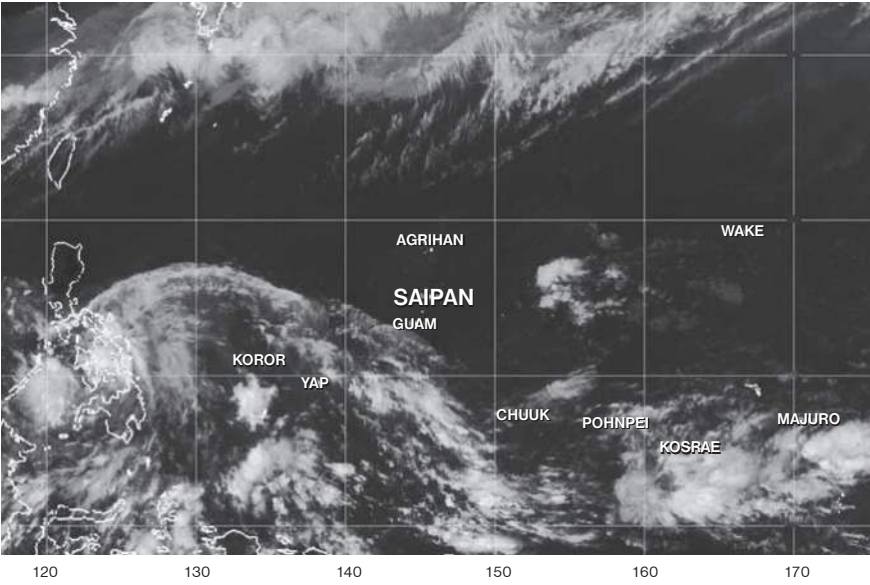
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 53
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 93 ▼ 70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 50
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 48
Miami	Windy	▲ 87 ▼ 78
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 95 ▼ 74
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 66
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 50
Pusan	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 64
Rome	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 61
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62 ▼ 54
Seoul	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 63
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 64
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 97 ▼ 76

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
6:56 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet	
11:34 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet	
6:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Koror within 50 miles of a line from 7N134E to 9N134E and farther south between 1N and 6N from 132E to 139E. A surface trough well south of the Marianas extends northward from 3N144E to 11N143E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found predominantly east of the trough axis within 120 miles of line from 11N142E to 6N147E to EQ150E. An upper-level low is centered far to the east of the Marianas at 14N153E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are occurring within 100 miles of 16N154E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over a large portion of eastern Micronesia between the equator and 7N from 158E to 170E and within 130 miles of a line from 4N170E to 6N180. These areas include Pohnpei and Kosrae but are just south of Majuro.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:21 AM	11:54 PM
Thursday	12:17 PM	
Friday	1:14 PM	12:37 AM
Saturday	2:12 PM	1:21 AM
Sunday	3:12 PM	2:08 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
			3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM				via ICN
			via GUM	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
			via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN				via GUM
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM				via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
			via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM				via ICN
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
			via ICN	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
							via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Germany backtracks on sprouts as E. coli source

HAMBURG, Germany (AP)—First they pointed a finger at Spanish cucumbers. Then they cast suspicion on sprouts from Germany. Now German officials appear dumbfounded as to the source of the deadliest E. coli outbreak in modern history, and one U.S. expert called the investigation a “disaster.”

Backtracking for the second time in a week, officials Monday said preliminary tests have found no evidence that vegetable sprouts from an organic farm in northern Germany were to blame.

The surprise U-turn came only a day after the same state agency, Lower Saxony's agriculture ministry, held a news conference to announce that the sprouts appeared to be the culprit in the outbreak that has killed 22 people and sickened more than 2,330 others across Europe, most of them in Germany, over the past month.

Andreas Hensel, head of Germany's Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, warned, “We have to be clear on this: Maybe we won't be able anymore to identify the source.”

Last week, German officials pointed to tainted cucumbers



A farm worker holds cucumbers in a greenhouse in Algarrobo, near Malaga, southern Spain, on Tuesday, May 31, 2011.

from Spain as a possible cause, igniting vegetable bans and heated protests from Spanish farmers, who suffered heavy financial losses. Researchers later concluded the Spanish cucumbers were contaminated with a different strain of E. coli.

“This investigation has been a disaster,” Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, told The Associated Press.

“This kind of wishy-washy response is incompetent,” he said, accusing German authorities of casting suspicion on cucumbers and sprouts without firm data.

The European Union's health Commissioner defended German investigators, saying they were under extreme pressure as the crisis unfolded.

“We have to understand that people in certain situations do have a responsibility to inform their citizens as soon as possible of any danger that could exist to them,” John Dalli said in Brussels.

In outbreaks, it is not unusual for certain foods to be suspected

at first, then ruled out.

In 2008 in the U.S., raw tomatoes were initially implicated in a nationwide salmonella outbreak. Consumers shunned tomatoes, costing the tomato industry millions. Weeks later, jalapeno peppers grown in Mexico were determined to be the cause.

In 2006, lab tests mistakenly pointed to green onions in an E. coli outbreak at Taco Bell restaurants in the U.S. Investigators considered cheddar cheese and ground beef as the source before settling on lettuce.

With the culprit in the European crisis still a mystery, authorities stopped short of giving sprouts a clean bill of health. German Agriculture Minister Ilse Aigner reiterated the warning against eating sprouts, as well as tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce, which have also come under suspicion.

The agriculture ministry for Lower-Saxony state said 23 samples from the organic sprouts farm tested negative for the highly aggressive, “super-toxic” strain of E. coli that is killing people, with tests on 17 more samples still under way.

Apple's cloud music could finally make piracy pay

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs on Monday introduced more than just a cloud storage system for songs that fans buy legitimately through iTunes. He unveiled a system that might finally get music lovers to pay for the songs they got through less-than-proper means.

Aside from offering to freely distribute new and old iTunes purchases on all of a user's devices, the Apple impresario unveiled “iTunes Match,” a \$25-a-

year service starting this fall that will scan users' devices and hard drives for music acquired in other ways, store it on distant computer servers and allow them to access it anywhere.

The service acknowledges a well-known fact—that most music on iPods, iPhones and iPads was ripped or swapped. Apple reached a deal that gives recording companies more than 70 percent of the new fees, addressing a dark secret that has crippled the music industry, and

provides them with some economic payback.

Where Apple is able to identify and match songs from its 18 million-song database, it will transfer them into the user's iCloud, a storage area housed on servers, including those at a massive new data center in North Carolina.

“The chances are awfully good that we've got the songs in our store that you've ripped,” Jobs said.

Where songs can't be identi-

fied—say of bootlegged concert recordings—users can manually upload them to the cloud and gain the same access.

Jobs called it “an industry-leading offer” compared with similar song-uploading storage services recently introduced by Amazon.com Inc. and Google Inc. The limit of “iTunes Match” is 25,000 songs, and the service will update lesser-quality song files to iTunes standards. iTunes purchases do not count against the limit.

Bernanke to take spotlight and assess economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's Ben Bernanke's turn to assess how much the economy has weakened.

Investors have pushed stock prices lower for four straight days in response to data showing weaker hiring in May, falling home prices and a drop in manufacturing. On Tuesday, the Federal Reserve chairman will offer his outlook.

Bernanke is giving a speech in Atlanta to a banking conference. It represents his first remarks on

the U.S. economy since April, when he said temporary factors like high gas prices were largely to blame for weaker growth at the start of the year.

Economists don't expect Bernanke to deviate from that position or signal any further action from the Federal Reserve.

“It's going to be steady as she goes. Bernanke will argue that his current game

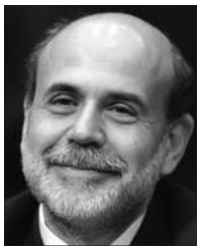
plan for the economy is just what is needed,” said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at the Martin Smith School of Business at California State University.

Last Friday, the government reported that the unemployment rate ticked up in May to 9.1 percent and the economy created just 54,000 jobs, the fewest in eight months. That's far below

the average of 220,000 jobs per month that were created during the previous three months.

Economists expect Bernanke will acknowledge serious problems facing the economy. But he's likely to repeat that they are temporary.

Chief among them are energy prices. The nationwide price for regular gasoline was close to \$4 per gallon in early May. The price has since declined to around \$3.77, according to AAA's daily fuel gauge.



Bernanke

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Boeing: India's jet order to help save jobs in US

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Boeing spokesman says a \$4 billion order from India for 10 military jets is expected to save jobs in the U.S. and extend the life of the Southern California plant where the giant cargo planes are assembled. Jerry Drelling said Monday the order has a \$5.8 billion annual economic impact and that the jobs of about 25,000 workers in 44 states depend on the C-17 planes. Boeing is the largest employer in the city of Long Beach, 25 miles south of downtown Los Angeles. Drelling says that without the order by the Indian government, the last of the plant's current orders would be delivered in December 2012.

Federal board to investigate Delta union elections

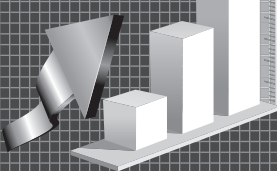
WASHINGTON (AP)—Delta Air Lines Inc. now faces a second investigation over its handling of another union election. The federal National Mediation Board told the air-

line on Monday that it would take a closer look at whether elections for three groups of workers were tainted. Last week, the NMB said it would do the same thing regarding a vote late last year that was narrowly lost by the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA.

Madoff payroll manager pleads guilty in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—An employee who's been singled out as a member of Bernard Madoff's “inner circle” pleaded guilty Monday to charges that he doctored documents to fool auditors, faked payroll records and obtained a loan by inflating the value of his personal accounts. Eric Lipkin, a second-generation Madoff employee who worked at Madoff's secretive investment advisory business for 16 years, pleaded guilty to conspiracy, bank fraud and falsifying financial records in a deal with prosecutors. The 37-year-old admitted his role in Madoff's epic fraud, telling the judge that he “worked to deceive auditors.” “I'm very sorry for my conduct,” he said.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,090.00	1,286.17	2,702.56
-61.30	-13.99	-30.22
-0.50%	-1.08%	-1.11%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms			
Australian Dollar	0.9359	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7789
British Pound	0.6114	Indian Rupee	44.7575
Canadian Dollar	0.9791	Indonesian Rupiah	8,522.5
Chinese Yuan	6.4791	Japanese Yen	80.2845
Euro	0.6843	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0122
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2219
		Philippine Peso	43.2153
		Singapore Dollar	1.2311
		South Korean Won	1,080.75
		Swiss Franc	0.8348
		Taiwan Dollar	28.7200
		Thailand Baht	30.305

Nation

Weiner admits lying about lewd photo, won't quit

NEW YORK (AP)—A tearful Rep. Anthony Weiner on Monday admitted sending a lewd photo of his underwear-clad crotch to a young woman over Twitter and then lying repeatedly to protect himself. In a flash of defiance, Weiner refused to resign even as Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi called for a House ethics investigation into whether he broke the rules.

The extraordinary confession at a packed Manhattan news conference was a remarkable turn of events for the brash Weiner, who conceded to a "hugely regrettable" lapse in judgment. House Democratic leaders tersely expressed disappointment and embarrassment, reflecting an erosion of support for the 46-year-old New York congressman and casting doubts on whether Weiner could hold onto his House seat let alone turn a once-promising political career into a 2013 bid for mayor.

Weiner insisted he had done nothing wrong and said he would fully cooperate with a House inquiry.

"People who draw conclusions about me are free to do so," Weiner said. "I've worked for the people of my district for 13 years and in politics for 20 years and I hope they see fit to see this in the light that it is."



A teary U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., addresses a news conference in New York, Monday, June 6, 2011.

But in a new twist, the married Weiner also acknowledged that he had engaged in inappropriate contact with six women over the course of three years through social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook and occasionally over the phone. He

said he had never met or had a physical relationship with any of the women and was not even sure of their ages. He also said he had never had sex outside of his marriage.

The news conference, unusually blunt even by New York

standards, went on nearly half an hour and capped a week of double-entendre, tabloid-headlines and late-night jokesters' snide comments. With eyes welling and voice breaking, Weiner fielded questions from dozens of shouting reporters as the cameras clicked.

Weiner said over and over that he had made "terrible mistakes" and done "a very dumb thing" for which he alone bore responsibility, and he apologized repeatedly to his wife, Huma Abedin, a top aide to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"My wife is a remarkable woman. She's not responsible for any of this," he said. "I apologize to her very deeply."

Abedin did not attend his news conference, but Weiner said they would not be separating over the scandal.

Among the women Weiner contacted, Meagan Broussard, told ABC News that Weiner "friended" her on Facebook after she commented on one of his speeches posted online on April 20. They exchanged more than 100 messages, and Weiner constantly tried to steer the conversation toward sex.

"I don't think he's a bad guy. I think he's got issues just like everybody else," Broussard, 26, said in an interview aired Monday night.

During Weiner's news conference, the lawmaker confirmed that Broussard was one of the women with which he had exchanged messages.

The scandal began more than a week ago when a conservative website reported that a photo of a man's crotch had been sent from Weiner's Twitter account to a college student in Seattle.

For days, Weiner claimed that he hadn't sent the photo and that he was the victim of a hacker. But he caused guffaws when he said that he couldn't say with

"certitude" that the underwear shot was not a picture of him.

The scandal escalated Monday when the website, Big-Government.com, run by conservative activist Andrew Breitbart, posted photos purportedly from a second woman who said she received shirtless shots of the congressman. The site said the pictures were in a cache of intimate online photographs, chats and email exchanges the woman claimed to have. The website did not identify the woman.

Sources: Edwards emails acknowledge payments

WASHINGTON (AP)—Prosecutors have obtained emails between John Edwards and a former aide to use as evidence at trial that he knew about payments to his pregnant mistress even while he was publicly denying it, people familiar with the case told The Associated Press on Monday.

Dozens of emails were exchanged between Edwards and his former speechwriter Wendy Button as they worked on a never-released draft statement to acknowledge paternity of his out-of-wedlock child, according to people who have seen the messages and requested anonymity because they have not been made public yet.



Edwards

The messages, draft statements and notes of their related phone conversations are key evidence prosecutors are using against Edwards, indicted on charges he failed to report nearly \$1 million allegedly spent to keep his mistress out of the public eye as he pursued the White House. The former senator was still denying he was the baby's father and publicly maintained he knew nothing about any money that may have been spent when the emails were sent in summer 2009.

Prosecutors must prove the 2004 vice presidential nominee had knowledge of the payments to convict him in the campaign finance case. Edwards proclaimed his inno-

cence of any crime after being indicted Friday.

His attorneys declined to comment on the evidence revealed to the AP.

The six felony charges came after intense negotiations in which prosecutors first insisted Edwards plead to a felony, but they ultimately offered him the chance to plead guilty to misdemeanor charges and serve a jail sentence, according to

people with knowledge of the talks who requested anonymity to discuss the private discussions. Edwards, a single father since his estranged wife's death in December, was interested in reaching

a deal but refused to accept anything that would take him away from his children, according to a person close to the talks. By definition, a misdemeanor could carry jail time of no more than one year.

During the talks, prosecutors presented their evidence to Edwards to encourage him to take a deal. A person who has seen the e-mails described the following context:

Button worked on the 2004 Edwards presidential campaign, continued to write his speeches between his two White House bids and was brought on to help with some drafts toward the end of the 2008 campaign. She reached out to her former boss in July 2009, when he had yet to admit he fathered a child with his former videographer, Rielle Hunter.

Officials: Half of force trained on gay ban repeal

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than a million U.S. troops—roughly half the armed forces—have been trained on the new law allowing gays to serve openly in the military, and so far there has been none of the turmoil or dire consequences predicted by opponents of what had been expected to be a wrenching change in military culture.

There's been no widespread resistance, no mad rush for the door by enlisted members opposed to the policy and no drop in recruiting.

"So far this seems to be a non-event," Gen. Peter Chiarelli, vice chief of staff for the Army, told reporters recently. But, he warned, "This is not going to happen without incident—I'd be crazy to say that. Somewhere along the line

something is going to occur. But we're doing everything we can to head that off in training."

In the debate over the change, opponents predicted that repealing the 17-year-old ban on openly gay service members would roil the nation's armed forces and undermine fighting ability. And, as the law passed Congress late last year and President Barack Obama signed it, Pentagon leaders said they would carefully assess the impact of the change on military readiness before they certified to the president that it could be implemented.

So far, military officials have told Pentagon leaders that they have seen no adverse impact on the force. And while there have been plenty of questions from

the troops—including pointed queries to Defense Secretary Robert Gates—defense officials say they have seen nothing yet that would block the eventual implementation of the law.

The military, officials say, has gotten the message, is taking the training, saluting and moving on.

The Pentagon, in fact, has largely refused to provide details or data on the training, nervous that widespread publicity could inflame the issue, put more pressure on the force or taint the process.

"We have seen no insurmountable issues," Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Our training is going very well."

The Navy expects to finish the

bulk of its training by the end of June. The Army will largely finish its training of the active duty force by mid-July, and the reserves by August 15. The Marines and Air Force have the bulk of their troops trained. All together about half of the 2.2 million members of the active and reserve military have been trained.

To be sure, there are still plenty of troops who oppose the change, reject homosexuality and have peppered training sessions with tough questions.

On Sunday, a Marine in Afghanistan complained to Gates that troops haven't been given a chance to decide whether to stay on under the new policy, and he asked if they could leave if they don't want to serve since it goes against their moral values.

ACROSS THE NATION

Army expects full breach of Missouri River levee

HAMBURG, Iowa (AP)—Crews scrambled Monday to protect a southwest Iowa town from the swollen Missouri River, but local officials said it's unclear whether they'll be able to prevent the river from leaving the community under several feet of water for

weeks. If efforts to pile massive sandbags on a faltering levee and build a secondary barrier fail, part of Hamburg could be under as much as 8 feet of water for a month or more, Fire Chief Dan Sturm said. Flooding along the river this summer—expected to break decades-old records—will test the system of levees, dams and flood walls like never

er before.

Loughner lawyer says she can't provide discovery

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—The Tucson shooting rampage suspect's lawyer says she's unable to provide discovery requested by prosecutors until her client is declared competent to stand trial. In a Monday

filing, defense attorney Judy Clark says the court's finding that Jared Lee Loughner is incompetent to stand trial makes it clear that she "cannot have rational or meaningful communication" with him. She says she also cannot consult with him about any possible defenses or evidence that may be presented at trial until he is declared competent.

Jilted ex-boyfriend puts up abortion billboard

ALAMOGORDO, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico man's decision to lash out with a billboard ad saying his ex-girlfriend had an abortion against his wishes has touched off a legal debate over free speech and privacy rights. The sign on Alamogordo's main thoroughfare shows 35-year-old

Greg Fultz holding the outline of an infant. The text reads, "This Would Have Been A Picture Of My 2-Month Old Baby If The Mother Had Decided To Not KILL Our Child!" Fultz's ex-girlfriend has taken him to court for harassment and violation of privacy. A domestic court official has recommended the billboard be removed.

Asia

Philippines says China violates accord on islands

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines has accused China of aggressively violating an agreement aimed at preventing clashes in the disputed Spratly Islands, the latest in a series of complaints about Chinese incursion in the area claimed by six countries.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said Tuesday that the latest confrontation in South China Sea islands close to Philippine shore is the most serious challenge to efforts to resolve the dispute peacefully since 1995, when China forcefully took over Manila-claimed Mischief Reef.

The government says it has evidence that show at least six Chinese intrusions in Manila-claimed areas in and near the Spratlys since February. Among the most serious was the reported firing Feb. 25 by a Chinese navy vessel to scare away Filipino fishermen from the Jackson Atoll, a Spratlys area claimed by Manila.

The Philippines, whose poorly equipped forces are no match for China's powerful military, has resorted to diplomatic protests. President Benigno Aquino III has said his government was



Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, right, talks with the delegation of Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie, 2nd from left, during their meeting at the Presidential Malacanang palace in Manila, Philippines on Monday May 23, 2011.

preparing to bring its protests before the United Nations.

Del Rosario, in a statement published Tuesday in the *Philippine Star* newspaper, urged the nations locked in the dispute over the potentially oil-rich region to

adhere to international laws to prevent armed confrontations and foster conflict-resolution.

"International law has given equal voice to nations regardless of political, economic or military stature, banishing the unlawful

use of sheer force," he said.

China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which includes the Philippines, signed a nonbinding accord in 2002 that called on claimants to exercise restraint

and stop occupying new areas.

"This very provision is being aggressively violated," del Rosario said.

The Spratlys, which are believed to be atop vast oil and gas reserves, have long been

feared as a potential flash point of armed conflicts in Asia. The chain of barren, largely uninhabited islands, reefs and banks, are claimed wholly by China, Taiwan and Vietnam and partly by the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

They teem with rich fishing grounds and straddle some of the world's busiest sea lanes.

China has denied its ships intruded into Philippine areas. Defense Minister Gen. Liang Guanglie told an Asian security conference in Singapore last week that China's military will not be used aggressively against its neighbors.

Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said that the international community will hold China to its promise. If it reneges, China "will lose face," Gazmin told a news conference Tuesday.

Chinese media have reported that Beijing plans to install an advanced oil rig in the South China Sea in July. The Philippines has expressed concern and asked China's embassy last week about the exact location of the planned oil rig and said that it should not be placed in Philippine waters.

Troops: What does terror chief's death mean to war

COMBAT OUTPOST ANDAR, Afghanistan (AP)—In encounters with troops in Afghanistan this past week, the question Defense Secretary Robert Gates heard more than any other was this: What does Osama bin Laden's death mean for the war?

Soldiers on the front lines of a conflict that began when many were pre-teens seemed to be wondering: Must we keep fighting and dying in this country if the terrorist who was the reason we came here is dead?

Gates said emphatically, yes, because Afghanistan could yet again revert to a haven for terrorists bent on perpetrating another 9/11 attack.

But it's a question that hangs over an intensifying debate in Washington about charting the next steps in a war, now in its 10th year, that is growing more costly and less popular among the American public and in Congress.

The bin Laden factor arguably has put Gates and other advocates of sticking to the current war strategy on the defensive. Although he is retiring June 30, Gates clearly is not shying away from a Washington policy debate that will come to a head this month with President Barack Obama's decision on how many troops to withdraw in July and, perhaps, how quickly to pull out the rest of the 30,000 "surge" forces the commander in chief

sent here last year.

There are now 100,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan—three times the total when Obama took office in January 2009. A budget-cutting mood in Congress, coupled with the imminence of the first troop withdrawals, has left Gates pitching a stay-the-course argument: It will take some months more to see how bin Laden's death in Pakistan might affect the Taliban in Afghanistan. In the meantime it would be premature to let up on U.S.-led combat offensives that have begun to put the Taliban on their heels. Keeping up the military pressure may, by winter, yield a true breakthrough: a Taliban leadership willing to

enter serious peace talks.

Others in the Obama administration, however, are pushing behind the scenes for an accelerated wrap-up of the troop-intensive counterinsurgency campaign. Many in Congress are making a similar case.

It's clear where Gates stands. At a U.S. base called Sharana on a bleak and barren stretch of land in remote Paktika province, not far from the Pakistan border, a soldier on Monday asked what bin Laden's demise meant for U.S. strategy. "It's too early to tell what the impact of bin Laden's death is on the situation here in Afghanistan," Gates replied. "I think we'll have a better idea by the end of the year." In the meantime, he

said later, "We shouldn't let up on the gas too much—at least for the next few months."

Given that bin Laden and the top Afghan Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, were "very close, personally," Gates said, more Taliban members may be wondering

what's to be gained by keeping up their alliance with al-Qaida.

"So, my hope is that if we can keep the military pressure up through the remainder of this year, keep what we've captured from these guys in the south, and keep this up, and they see that they are not going to win, that then increases the opportunity for" a peace settlement, he said.

Radical Indonesia cleric rejects terrorism charges

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A radical Indonesian cleric facing life in prison on terrorism charges professed his innocence Monday and rejected the trial as outside Islamic law in a final court appearance before judges announce a verdict.

Abu Bakar Bashir is accused of helping to set up and fund a terror training camp in Aceh province for a group that allegedly planned attacks on foreigners and assassinations of moderate Muslim leaders such as President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Prosecutors have sought a life sentence for Bashir, who co-founded the al-Qaida-

linked Jemaah Islamiyah network, which is blamed for some of Indonesia's deadliest suicide bombings.

Bashir, 72, denies involvement with the training camp but has repeatedly defended it as legal under Islam.

The white-bearded cleric told a Jakarta court that the case against him was fabricated and witnesses that testified by teleconference were doing so under pressure.

"Therefore their testimonies could not be trusted," he said.

Citing verses from the Quran, Bashir said he rejected the trial as counter to Islam.

Indonesia, a secular nation of 237 million with more Muslims than any other in the world, has made strides in fighting terrorism since the first Jemaah Islamiyah-linked attack on Bali island in 2002.

More than 260 people have died altogether, many of them Western tourists.

But the country still faces pockets of radicalized Islamists, and a small but increasingly vocal hard-line fringe has carried out violent attacks in recent months on minorities and police.

A panel of five judges is to announce its verdict on June 16.

The maximum penalty for the terror charges is death.

Prosecutors say testimony from dozens of witnesses at Bashir's trial proved he not only incited others but played an active role in terrorist activities.

In a court appearance last month, the fiery cleric called Osama bin Laden a "warrior" who will be rewarded in heaven for the "great sacrifices" he made for Islam.

The Aceh-based training camp, raided by an anti-terror squad early last year, was organized by a new terror cell allegedly planning Mumbai-style attacks.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bus plunges into ravine in Pakistan, 14 killed

CHAMAN, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police say a minibus has slid off a mountainous road and fallen into a ravine in the country's southwest, killing 14 passengers and injuring 10 others. Police official Naseebullah Khan says the vehicle was going from Chaman, a town on the border with Afghanistan, to Quetta, the main city in the southwest. The driver lost control and the minibus fell about 200 feet (61 meters) into the ravine around midday on Monday. Khan says rescue workers recovered 14 bodies and took 10 injured passengers to the hospital.

Floods kill 14 people, leave 35 missing in China

BEIJING (AP)—China's official news service says rain-triggered floods have killed 14 people and left 35 missing in the country's southwest. Xinhua News Agency said Tues-

day that the floods destroyed roads and bridges, toppled 100 homes and washed away more than 500 vehicles. Xinhua quotes authorities in Guizhou province as saying the flooding has forced 45,000 residents to evacuate and left 3,000 others stranded.

Aftershock rocks quake-hit NZ city of Christchurch

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—An aftershock has rattled the earthquake-ravaged city of Christchurch, New Zealand, but no serious damage or injuries were reported. The U.S. Geological Survey said the 5.0-magnitude quake struck Monday morning 13 miles (22 kilometers) west of Christchurch at a depth of 2 miles (3 kilometers). Scores of aftershocks have followed the devastating earthquake that struck Christchurch in February, killing 181 people. The February quake was New Zealand's most expensive natural disaster, costing an estimated \$15 billion.

World

Attack kills 120 Syrian forces; crackdown feared

BEIRUT (AP)—Armed men killed 120 Syrian security forces and torched government buildings Monday in a northern region where troops have unleashed deadly assaults on protesters for days, Syria said. The government vowed to respond “decisively,” hinting at an even more brutal crackdown by a regime known for ruthlessly crushing dissent.

If confirmed, the attack in the north would be a turning point in what so far has largely been a peaceful uprising threatening the 40-year rule of President Bashar Assad and his family.

Opposition activists were skeptical of the official casualty toll, saying the authorities were setting the stage for a new onslaught. But even they acknowledged there was fighting, although it was not clear who was involved.

Communications were cut to the area around Jisr al-Shughour on Monday and the details of the attack were impossible to verify, but there have been unconfirmed reports by activists and residents in the past of Syrians and even mutinous troops fighting back against security forces.

Adnan Mahmoud, the chief government spokesman, acknowledged that



In this citizen journalism image made on a mobile phone and acquired by the AP, Syrian anti-government supporters carry the coffins of people who they say were killed in the government crackdown, in the central city of Homs, Syria, Saturday, May 21, 2011.

Deadly clashes

Syrian TV reported Monday that more than 100 police and security forces were killed by armed groups in northern Syria. The report could not be immediately verified.



SOURCE: ESRI AP

Syrian forces had lost control of some areas for “intermittent periods of time” and said residents had appealed to the army to do what was necessary to restore security.

“We will deal strongly and decisively, and according to the law, and we will not be silent about any armed attack that targets the security of the state and its citizens,” said Interior Minister Ibrahim Shaar.

The surprisingly high death toll among pro-regime troops would suggest some sort of major backlash against the crackdown against the uprising—though by whom was unknown because of the seal over the area. Regardless of who carried out Monday’s attack, it shows new cracks

in a rule that has held out through weekly protests of thousands of people.

Human rights activist Mustafa Osso said there were unconfirmed reports of a few soldiers who switched sides and were defending themselves against attacking security forces, but he said the reports suggest the mutiny is limited and “does not pose a threat to the unity of the army yet.”

“The protesters have so far been peaceful and unarmed,” said Osso.

A Syrian activist speaking on condition of anonymity said there were unconfirmed reports of infighting between security forces. “The situation is very foggy, it is unclear who is doing the shooting, but the situation is very serious and appears to be getting out of control,”

he said on condition of anonymity.

He said there were fears the army was preparing a major attack.

Before Monday’s killings, the government and some human rights groups have said more than 160 soldiers and security forces had died in the uprising. The latest deaths marked by far the deadliest single strike against them.

The government’s unusual admission of the death toll and loss of control appeared to set the stage for an even stronger action to crush a popular uprising that began in mid-March and poses a potent threat to the Assad regime.

State television added the armed groups carried out a “real massacre,” mutilating some bodies and throwing

others in the Orontes River.

Jisr al-Shughour, about 12 miles (20 kilometers) from the Turkish border, has been the latest focus of Syria’s military, whose nationwide crackdown on the revolt has left more than 1,200 Syrians dead, activists say. The town was a stronghold of the country’s banned Muslim Brotherhood in the 1980s. Human rights groups said at least 42 civilians have been killed there since Saturday.

Syria’s government has a history of violent retaliation against dissent, including a three-week bombing campaign against the city of Hama that crushed an uprising there in 1982. Jisr al-Shughour itself came under government shelling in 1980, with a reported 70 people killed.

Assad’s decision to allow pro-Palestinian protesters to storm the Israeli border twice in recent weeks indicates he may be trying to deflect focus from a serious crisis at home, and possibly divert international attention from a new crackdown. State television broadly carried Sunday’s protest at the Golan Heights to the south frontier, which left as many as 23 people dead in fighting with Israeli forces, but it has not carried any footage of the protest, crackdown or ambush at the northern edge of Syria.

Monday’s state television report said the officers were ambushed as they responded to calls from residents for protection from the armed groups. It said 20 policemen were initially killed, and then the groups blew up a post office and attacked a security post, killing other forces.

The report said the armed groups were hiding in homes and firing at security forces and civilians alike, using residents as human shields.

The TV reports could not be independently confirmed. The Syrian government has severely restricted the media and expelled foreign reporters, making it nearly impossible to independently verify events.

US pushes for Yemen solution as Saleh vows return

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—With the wounded president out of Yemen, the United States and Saudi Arabia scrambled Monday to arrange a power transfer ensuring an end to his decades-long rule. But a top official said President Ali Abdullah Saleh, recovering in Saudi Arabia, would return home within days, a step almost certain to re-ignite violence.

A return by Saleh would likely spark new, intensified fighting between his forces and opposition tribesmen determined to topple him. Both sides’ fighters are deployed in the streets of the capital, and a cease-fire brokered by Saudi Arabia only a day earlier was already starting to fray, with clashes killing at least six. Saleh was rushed late Saturday to the Saudi capital for treatment after being wounded in a rocket attack on his palace amid two weeks of fighting in Sanaa. His departure raised cheers from protesters who have been turning out in the streets by the hundreds of thousands since February demanding his ouster. To them, it

seemed inevitable he would be unable to come back.

But Vice President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who is acting leader in the president’s absence, told European ambassadors Monday, “Saleh’s health is improving greatly and he will return to the country in the coming days,” the state news agency reported. Saleh underwent surgery to remove shards of wood from his chest and treat heavy burns on his face and chest.

A renewal of fighting could push the impoverished nation into outright civil war. The United States fears that al-Qaida’s branch in Yemen could exploit the turmoil to strengthen its presence in the country, which it has already used as a base for plotting two attempted anti-U.S. attacks.

“We are calling for a peaceful and orderly transition, a nonviolent transition that is consistent with Yemen’s own constitution,” U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said. “We think an immediate transition is in the best interests of the Yemeni people.”

Furious diplomatic efforts were underway involving the Saudis, the United States, the Yemenis and Gulf Arab nations to work out a transfer of power, a U.S. official said. He likened the complex process to “four-dimensional chess.” The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

The focus is on reviving a U.S.-backed deal mediated earlier by the Gulf Cooperation Council, a grouping of Gulf Arab nations including Saudi Arabia. Under the deal, Saleh would retire, handing power to his vice president, a unity government between his party and the opposition would be formed and presidential elections held within two weeks.

In the past weeks, Saleh refused three times to sign the deal. As he was being evacuated for surgery over the weekend, he defied heavy Saudi pressure and refused to even sign a presidential decree formally transferring his authorities to Hadi, a sign he was intent on coming back.

WORLD BRIEFS

HRW says Libya rebels detain pro-Gadhafi civilians

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—Libya’s rebels have arbitrarily detained dozens of civilians suspected of supporting ruler Moammar Gadhafi and at least one has died after apparently being tortured while in custody, Human Rights Watch said Monday. Since the uprising started in mid-February, rebels have seized control of much of the country’s east and scrambled to set up an administration in their de facto capital of Benghazi. Rebels also hold the western city of Misrata and smaller towns in the western mountains. Both sides have taken prisoners in the fighting.

Chilean volcano grounds flights, coats ski slopes

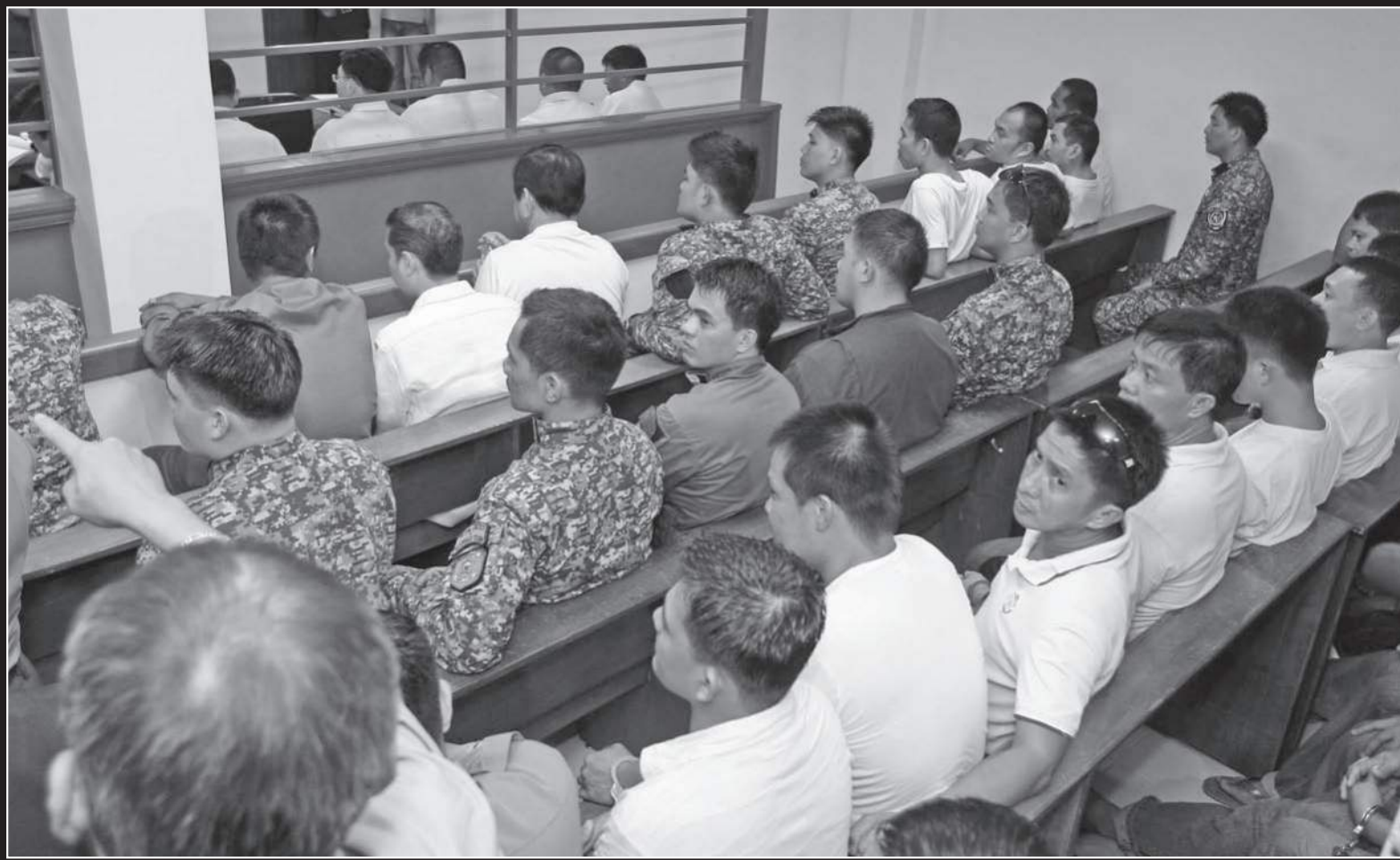
SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—An erupting Chilean volcano sent a towering plume of ash across South America on Monday, forcing thousands from their homes, grounding airline flights in southern Argen-

tina and coating ski resorts with a gritty layer of dust instead of snow. Booming explosions echoed across the Andes as toxic gases belched up from a three-mile-long (five-kilometer long) fissure in the Puyehue-Cordon Caulle volcanic complex—a ridge between two craters just west of the Chilean-Argentine border that began erupting Saturday.

Rains send rivers dangerously higher in Caribbean

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)—Several days of heavy rain sent rivers higher Monday across much of the Caribbean, destroying houses, setting off landslides and forcing thousands of people to leave their homes. The storm has been blamed for four deaths in the region, officials said Monday. There were reports of severe flooding in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica from a low pressure system that lingered south of Jamaica for five days before moving west.

Focus



Jail guards surround Andal Ampatuan Sr. (seventh from right front row in yellow shirt), the patriarch of the powerful Ampatuan clan, as he awaits for his arraignment to start Wednesday June 1, 2011 at suburban Taguig city, south of Manila, Philippines. AP

Press group decries impunity in murders

By ANITA SNOW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Mary Grace Morales is still waiting for justice 18 months after her reporter husband and sister were gunned down in a massacre of 57 political opponents and journalists in the Philippines—the world's single worst mass killing of media workers.

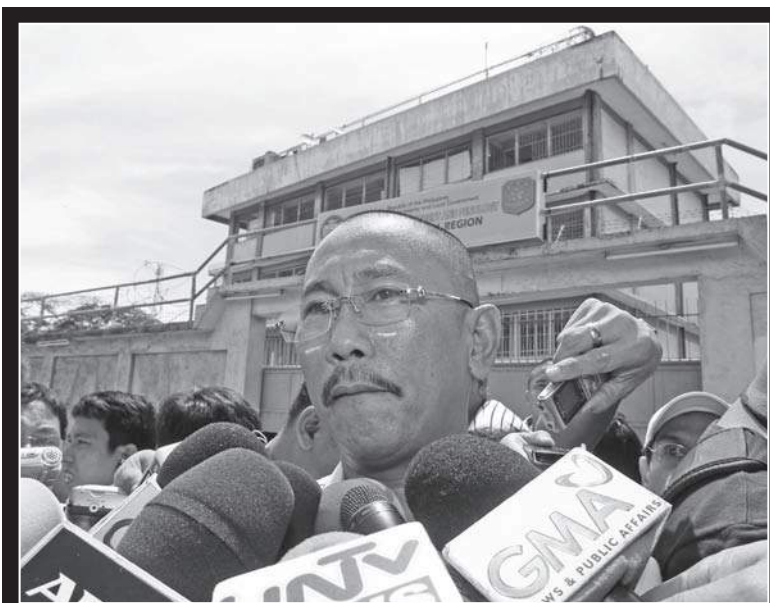
"I don't understand why it's so slow," Morales said in a telephone interview Wednesday from the southern Philippines. "Why does the trial take so long?"

Even once the court process is completed, there is no guarantee justice will be served, the Committee to Protect Journalists said Wednesday in its annual report on impunity in journalist killings worldwide.

"Entrenched corruption and dysfunction in law enforcement has thwarted justice in journalist murders," the committee said in its 2011 Impunity Index spotlighting countries where journalists are slain and killers go free.

"Suspects have been publicly identified in dozens of unsolved cases examined by CPJ for this index, but authorities have been unable or unwilling to gain convictions," it said.

Morales said her husband, Rossel, 35, and her sister Marites Cablitars, 39, were both newspaper reporters keen to cover an electoral convoy



Governor Esmel Mangundadatu of the Maguindanao province talks to reporters June 1, 2011 at suburban Taguig city, south of Manila, Philippines. Mangundadatu lost his wife and two sisters in the Nov. 23, 2009 massacre of 57 political opponents and journalists in Maguindanao province in southern Philippines. AP

in the southern province of Maguindanao in November 2009. Rossel Morales had originally worked as a disc jockey at a radio station, but his sister-in-law convinced him that reporting the news was more fun.

"We knew that it was a dangerous job, but what else could I do?" said Mary Grace Morales. "They both really wanted to keep working as journalists."

The two reporters were among at

least 32 journalists killed in the brazen attack by as many as 150 gunmen on a caravan of a candidate's family and supporters and the media workers trailing behind. The massacre exposed the power and impunity some clans still enjoy in impoverished, isolated areas of the Philippines.

"That day, I heard my sister's name on the radio, but at first I didn't hear my husband's," Morales said, recalling the terror of learning about

the mass killings. "Finally, one of my neighbors heard his name and I knew that yes, he too, had died."

The couple had three daughters, now 11, 10 and 8 years old.

The region's powerful clan patriarch Andal Ampatuan Sr. pleaded not guilty in Manila on Wednesday to charges he masterminded the attacks.

The main suspect in the killings is his son, former Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., who is accused of ambushing the election convoy of his political rival. The Ampatuans held key posts in an autonomous Muslim region in the country's south.

The annual update of the Impunity Index showed that vast majority of murdered journalists are local reporters, like Morales' husband and sister. Only 6 percent of unsolved cases on the index involve international journalists.

It also found that prior threats against a journalist can be a powerful predictor of future violence. More than 40 percent of the victims counted by the index had received prior threats.

For this latest index, CPJ examined journalist murders that occurred between January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2010, and that remain unsolved. Only the 13 nations with five or more unsolved cases are included on the index. Cases are considered unsolved when no convictions have been obtained.

In descending order, ranked by the number of unsolved journalist murders per 1 million inhabitants, the 13 countries are:

- 1 Iraq** With a rating far worse than anywhere else in the world at least 92 journalists have been murdered in the past decade, with no convictions. Among the four murder victims in 2010 was Sardasht Osman, a contributor to several news outlets who received threats for coverage accusing Kurdistan Regional Government officials of corruption.
- 2 Somalia** 10 murders are unsolved, including the shooting of a senior journalist for state radio in 2010.
- 3 Philippines** The murders of at least 56 journalists remain unsolved, included the 32 slain in Maguindanao.
- 4 Sri Lanka** At least nine killings are unsolved, including the 2009 murder of Lasantha Wickramatunga, a leading editor and government critic beaten to death by motorcycle-riding assailants.
- 5 Colombia** Historically among the most murderous places for journalists, it has shown improvement as authorities successfully prosecute some killings. But 11 killings from the past decade remain unsolved.
- 6 Afghanistan** Seven unsolved killings include the 2008 murder of a reporter for BBC's Pashto service.
- 7 Nepal** Six journalist slayings are unresolved, including several believed to have been committed by Maoist rebels.
- 8 Mexico** The country's impunity rating worsened for the third consecutive year, with at least 13 journalist murders unsolved amid widespread drug-related corruption. Photographer Luis Carlos Santiago of the Ciudad Juarez newspaper El Diario was among those killed last year, gunned down in a shopping center parking lot on a weekday afternoon.
- 9 Russia** The cases remain open on the murders of 16 journalists who reported on official corruption, organized crime and unrest in the North Caucasus, including the contract killings of investigative reporters Anna Politkovskaya and Paul Klebnikov, and the mysterious poisoning of a newspaper editor.
- 10 Pakistan** At least 14 journalist murders have gone unsolved over the past decade. The victims include a veteran reporter who was shot multiple times in 2010 as he entered the press club building in a volatile town near the Afghan border.
- 11 Bangladesh** The murders of five print reporters who covered local corruption and crime stories.
- 12 Brazil** Five unsolved killings.
- 13 India** Seven unsolved cases, including that of a reporter murdered in 2006 after writing about corruption in the forestry service.

Campus Life

EOU names Rellani Ogumoro 2011 President's Scholar

LA GRANDE, Ore.—It takes a special person to be a true advocate for human rights and confront difficult issues to make the world a better place—someone like Rellani Ogumoro, the 2011 EOU President's Scholar.

Since arriving at Eastern Oregon University four years ago from Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Ogumoro has been an active member of the university community.

She served as ASEOU president during her junior year and applied for and received competitive internships with the United Nations in New York and with the Public Leadership Education Network in Washington, D.C.

These programs introduced Ogumoro to the behind-the-scenes policy work being conducted on Capitol Hill and throughout the world, addressing women's issues and hu-

man rights as a whole. While in D.C., she also spent time at Courtney's House, a non-profit organization supporting victims of child sex trafficking.

The experience validated Ogumoro's desire to become involved with public policy reform. Her extensive participation in service programs resulted in being named a 2011 Truman Scholar—the first EOU student to garner this distinction. The award will provide financial support for her to attend graduate school, where she will continue to pursue her passion for helping others.

Ogumoro's parents, Jack and Lauri (Bennett) Ogumoro, of Saipan, are both EOU alumni in the class of 1982. Lauri is originally from La Grande. Ogumoro's older brother and sister are also Eastern graduates, as are numerous other members of her family.

ON THE NET
www.eou.edu



Ogumoro is graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in sociology and a minor in gender studies. She will address the class of 2010-11 at the formal commencement exercises on Saturday. The ceremony begins at 10am at Community Stadium.

Eastern Oregon University serves students and communities throughout Oregon with a special focus on rural, regional and distance learning. Programs are delivered on campus, online and onsite in La Grande and at 16 regional centers and include liberal arts, business, education and cooperative programs in agriculture, nursing and dental hygiene. (EOU)

Rellani Ogumoro with her parents, Jack and Lauri Ogumoro, outside William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., where the family attended the Truman Scholars Awards Weekend together in May.

NMI lass inducted to honor society

Tanya Ciara Macachor Dela Cruz was inducted into the Alpha Eta Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Portland Community College on March 4, 2011.

Dela Cruz, majoring in Theatre/Music/Dance, is the daughter of Manases and Violeta Dela Cruz of Capital Hill, Saipan.

Established in 1918 by two-year college presidents, Phi Theta Kappa is the oldest and most prestigious honor society serving two-year colleges around the world. The Society serves to recognize and en-

courage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership and service programming.

Students must rank in the top 20 percent of the class to be invited to membership in Phi Theta Kappa and must maintain high academic standing during their enrollment in the two-year college.

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American

higher education with more than 1.7 million members and 1,100 chapters located in 50 United States, United States territories, Canada, and Germany.

In 1929, the American Association of Community Colleges recognized Phi Theta Kappa as the official honor society for two-year colleges.

The Society holds membership in the prestigious Association of College Honor Societies as the general scholarship honor society representing two-year colleges. (PR)

Kids in Philippine village swim to school no more

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Dozens of dirt-poor children in a Philippine mangrove village no longer have to swim to school while straining to hold their books above the water.

A blogger who learned how children from Layag-layag village struggled to reach school raised money through Facebook to provide boats to the community in the southern Philippines.

A bright-yellow, donated motorboat carried Layag-layag children to their elementary school off bustling Zamboanga city Monday when the country's nearly 26 million students returned to school after a two-month break.

The new school year refocuses this poor Southeast Asian nation's attention to the ills of its educational system—congested classrooms, dilapidated buildings and a huge number of dropouts due to poverty.

But school opened with a piece of good news for the

village whose youngsters for years had to swim and wade through about a mile of mostly chest-deep water and cross sandbars to reach school.

Teacher Racquel Bangayan said the children arrived in her class with their clothes dripping wet in the past when they could not hitch a ride on fishing boats. Many often came late but a few excelled in school.

More than 220 families fish and seaweed-farm in Layag-layag, where they resettled starting in the 1980s due to fighting between government troops and Muslim separatist rebels in their towns on nearby Jolo island.

Government employee and blogger Jay Jaboneta said he learned of the children's plight last October and helped start fund-raising through his Facebook account. His tale was spotlighted in the Best of Facebook Stories.

"Some of these children came from families which

were too poor to buy even small boats so they have to swim their way to school," Jaboneta told The Associated Press. "It's an inspiring story. They saw the school as the only way out of poverty."

Jaboneta raised enough money for one motorboat, named "New Hope," which was turned over to community leaders in March. Villagers can use the boat for fishing and seaweed farming but have to set aside money from their profits for gasoline and promise to ferry the children to and from school, charity worker Anton Lim said.

Two more boats were being built, and the charity group overseeing the donations also provided school bags, slippers and blankets to the children.

"The children were jumping with joy holding their new bags and slippers," Lim said. "They did not appear as excited with the new boat. They've been so used being in the water."



CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Tinian High School JROTC Stallion Battalion held their annual change of command ceremony on May 27, 2011. This traditional event celebrates the outgoing battalion commander, cadet LTC Joel Ray Santos, as he relinquishes his position to the incoming battalion commander, cadet LTC Mary Hocog. This event recognized the hard work and achievement of Santos, and officially presents Hocog as she assumes command of the Stallion Battalion.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



CAMPUS BULLETIN

DES Cultural Day and Reading Carnival set

Dandan Elementary School will be hosting a Cultural Day fundraiser and Reading Carnival on Friday, June 10, 2011, from 9am to 3pm, at the school's multi-purpose stage. There will be lots of food, prizes, games and entertainment! For more information, call 237-3662. (PR)

Kagman ES sets last PTSA meeting

The Kagman Elementary School will be holding its 10th PTSA meeting on June 8, 2011, at 6:30pm in the school cafeteria.

Parents are encouraged to attend this last meeting for school year 2010-2011. For more information, call 664-3911/12. (PR)

Registration open for Teachers Institute

The NMI Council for the Humanities announces the opening of registration for the 2011 Teachers Institute that will be held in August.

The Institute, which will run from Aug. 1 to 20, 2011, is open to public and private K-12 teachers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Successful completion of the Institute will allow PSS

teachers to fulfill the local history requirement of their teaching credentials.

The registration form and an Institute schedule may be obtained from the Humanities Council office in Gualo Rai, from the Human Resources Office at PSS on Capitol Hill, or downloaded from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$100. Registration forms and fees must be submitted no later than 4pm on July 15. Contact Council program officer Merced Ada at 235-4785 for more information. (PR)

Life & Style

Gaga gives heartfelt thanks at fashion award event

NEW YORK (AP)—It seems the fashion crowd, especially when fully decked out for Monday night's Council of Fashion Designers of America awards, can be pretty intimidating: CNN anchor Anderson Cooper said so, actress Naomi Watts said so, and even Lady Gaga said so.

On stage to accept her award as the year's top style icon, a soft-spoken, maybe even teary-eyed Gaga said she was nervous.

"All of you made me feel like a star before I was," she told the audience at Lincoln Center that boasted bold-faced names such as Marc Jacobs, Anna Wintour, Diane von Furstenberg, Donna Karan and Michael Kors.

She talked about how important fashion was in her life as a pathway to self-discovery, artistry and confidence. As a teenager, she'd save her money to buy vintage Thierry Mugler from a neighborhood thrift shop, checking in with the salesman regularly to make sure her favorite pieces hadn't sold while she was raising the cash. She planned her outfits for Friday night parties as if she was going to the Oscars, she said.

"As much as this award means to me personally ... I just want you to know how much this means to young Americans," Gaga said.

But the music star and style risk-taker, wearing a corset get-up by Mugler, a label now helmed by her friend Nicola Formichetti, got her swagger back as she recalled getting the text message from Wintour that she had been picked for the prize.

She said she thought the message

was from a friend named Anna and replied with a bleep-worthy response. The text back from the Vogue editor-in-chief said, "How lovely."

That led to laughter—and so did Cooper's montage of his early days as a preteen model.

Cooper, a longtime friend of CFDA president von Furstenberg, said he decided to show his photos to prove his fashion cred since he was acting as master of ceremonies. (He also is the son of late designer jeans magnate Gloria Vanderbilt and worked as a fit model for both Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren, who made his tuxedo.)

"There was no way you'd be critical," he joked, "or that's what Diane said, anyway."

Watts, dressed in a metallic T-shirt-style gown by Francisco Costa for Calvin Klein, presented the top womenswear honor to Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez of Proenza Schouler. But she seemed to find the awkward walk across a long stage intimidating in her high heels. "That was easy," she said as she reached the podium. "Fun doing it in a room full of supermodels."

Top models Doutzen Kroes, Karlie Kloss, Miranda Kerr, Alessandra Ambrosio and Chanel Iman were indeed in the house, on the arms of their favorite designers. Karolina Kurkova, in a striking hooded jumpsuit made of green sequins, read the names of the winners in the Swarovski emerging-talent categories: Eddie Borgo for accessories, Robert Geller for menswear and Prabal Gurung for womenswear.

Kurkova took a moment to sing for



Singer Lady Gaga attends the 2011 CFDA Fashion Awards at Alice Tully Hall on Monday, June 6, 2011, in New York.

AP

Gaga—"I'm your biggest fan," she said—and then Gurung asked during his speech if he could pose with Gaga.

"That will make me the coolest uncle," he boasted.

But it was the nod from his fellow de-

signers as well as retailers, stylists and editors that the rest of his family would find impressive, Gurung said. "I'm just a guy from Nepal. I will call my mother and say, 'It's OK. I turned out fine.'"

The two standing ovations of the night went to photographer Arthur Elgort and designer Marc Jacobs, who was there for his "half-lifetime achievement award," according to presenter Sofia Coppola.

"This achievement is born of love, passion, creativity ... and a hell of a lot of hard work," said Jacobs, who is 48.

He added, "I believe we all know and feel the greatest reward is the process itself."

Other highlights:

■ Kanye West, saying he was a huge fan, handed the international design prize to Phoebe Philo of Celine. He said he's been known to go into a Celine store and try on the clothes—womenswear, no less—"knowing that would get me bashed by the hip-hop blogs."

■ Michael Bastian was named best menswear designer, and Alexander Wang as accessories designer.

■ Jessica Alba, showing off her baby bump in a coral-and-purple gown by von Furstenberg, gave the CFDA Founders Award to InStyle fashion director Hal Rubenstein.

■ Kors said he always enjoys this event because he likes being surrounded with "people who have a passion for fashion."

"Tonight is about not only people who make the clothes, but also the photographers, writers and the people who wear the clothes."

Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' jacket up for auction

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP)—The jacket Michael Jackson wore in his "Thriller" video is hitting the auction block.

Auction administrator Darren Julien says the red and black leather jacket is "the most recognized and significant piece of pop culture" to come up for sale, and he expects it to fetch at least \$200,000 at the Music Icons auction on June 25 and 26 at Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills.

Jackson autographed the jacket as a gift to his longtime costume designers, Dennis Tompkins and Michael Bush. He wanted them to use the small calfskin jacket as a template for his future concert fashions. A portion of the proceeds from its sale will benefit the Shambala Preserve, where Jackson's two Bengal tigers, Thriller and Sabu, have been living since the pop star left his Neverland ranch in 2006.

Other Jackson items up for sale include the wig he wore when he announced his ill-fated "This Is It" concert series in London, a fedora and spangled glove he wore on stage, his shirt from the "Scream" video and the battered mailbox from the Carolwood Drive estate where Jackson died at age 50 in 2009.

The Music Icons sale also includes one of Eric Clapton's guitars, Frank Sinatra's patent leather boots and 1986 Jaguar, handwrit-



In this May 26, 2011 photo, a worn and signed "Thriller" Jacket that belonged to Michael Jackson is displayed at Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills, Calif.

ten lyrics and a leather jacket from Johnny Cash, jackets and a guitar from Elvis Presley, a signed harmonica from Bob Dylan and nearly 600 other pieces of music memorabilia from Bruce Springsteen, Madonna, The Beatles and others.

The collection will be on view free to the public from June 13 to 25 at Julien's Auctions Gallery in Beverly Hills.

Cowell says he tried to keep Cole on 'X Factor'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Simon Cowell said he made a good faith effort to keep Cheryl Cole on either the U.S. or the U.K. version of "The X Factor" and regrets losing her and, possibly, her friendship.

Dismissing reports that Cole was dropped from the U.S. show because of a lack of chemistry with fellow judge Paula Abdul, Cowell said he "genuinely" felt Cole would be happier back home in England and on the original "X Factor."

"I hate seeing her hurt. She's one of—I hope—she's one of my closest friends, and this was a decision we made which we thought would be beneficial to her, funny enough," Cowell said in an interview Monday from London.

"Not many people will believe that, but that's the truth," said Cowell, the former "American Idol" judge who created "The X Factor." After the U.K. deal stalled, an effort to retain Cole on the upcoming Fox TV show also failed, he said.

Earlier Monday, Fox and producers announced that Cole was to be replaced on the network's version of the singing contest by another British pop star, Nicole Scherzinger, who will shift from co-host to judge on the show debuting this fall.

Cole's representatives did not respond to a request for comment.

Scherzinger, last year's "Dancing With the Stars" champ, is a former member of pop's Pussycat Dolls and has appeared on the British "The X Factor," while Cole found fame with the group Girls Aloud.

Previously announced co-host Steve Jones, a popular British TV personality, will fly solo, Fox and "X Factor" producers FremantleMedia North America and Cowell's Syco Television said in a brief joint statement.

Cowell and Antonio "L.A." Reid join Scherzinger and Abdul as judges. Cole, who had already taped two audition shows, will be seen in some series footage, Cowell said.

Cowell called inaccurate the swirl of rumors about her, including the suggestion that she didn't mesh with the other U.S. judges or that her Newcastle, England, accent was difficult for American viewers to understand.

"She was good on the American show," Cowell said. "I personally thought she was missing her family and friends. She just looked a little bit, I wouldn't say uncomfortable, but just not as happy as I've seen her on previous shows."

Cole was offered a pay boost to leave the Fox's "X Factor" and return as a judge on the hit British show, Cowell said.

Cole's representatives quickly responded that she was interested and negotiations began, he said. She seemed excited, he said, adding, "It was even to the point she'd asked if she could have my dressing room" in London.

But talks were derailed when word leaked to the media and her side went silent, he said. With production nearing for the U.K. "X Factor" (its new season began last week), the panel had to be locked without Cole.

Cowell said he and the other producers of the Fox show determined it would be "fair" to offer Cole the chance to return. Despite reports, he said, she was could reject the offer without breaching her contract or losing any pay.

Cowell has been in touch with Cole, telling her in one text message that he takes "full responsibility" for what happened and doesn't lay blame on Fox or Fremantle. She's sent only one message back, he said.

"She told me she wasn't happy but that she also accepted it was a business decision and she wished the show well. Typically, in Cheryl form, she was disappointed but charming at the same time," said Cowell.

"I always, always would hold the door open to work with her again," he said.

However the "The X Factor" fares on Fox, it's already provided a bounty of gripping off-screen drama with Cole's exit and Abdul's announcement as judge last month following protracted will-she-or-won't-she speculation.

Is there a third act coming?

"I'm going to ax me," Cowell joked.

Fox is counting on the new series to extend to the fall the ratings domination provided by "American Idol," which airs from January to May. For Cowell, "The X Factor" is a chance to add to his U.S. portfolio that includes the summer series "America's Got Talent," airing on NBC and produced by Syco and FremantleMedia North America.



Kyle Chandler plays Jackson Lamb, from left, Joel Courtney plays Joe Lamb, Elle Fanning plays Alice Dainard, and Ron Eldard plays Louis Dainard in "Super 8," from Paramount Pictures.

FRANCOIS DUHAMEL/PARAMOUNT PICTURES/MCT

A soft spot for an old technology led to 'Super 8'

By RICK BENTLEY
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

LOS ANGELES—J.J. Abrams has embraced the most advanced technology to make TV shows like "Lost" and "Fringe" and movies like "Star Trek." He's pushing boundaries again in his latest feature, "Super 8."

And yet, Abrams still has a soft spot in his creative soul for what now looks like primitive technology—Super 8mm movies. He holds the film format—created in 1965—in such high regard because it provided the first outlet for his creativity.

"There's something about looking at Super 8 films that is so evocative," Abrams says during an interview at the Four Seasons Hotel. "You could argue it's the resolution of the film somehow because they aren't crystal clear and perfect so there is a kind of gauzy layer between you and what you see."

"You could argue it's the silence of them. You could say it's the sound of the projectors that create a moodiness. But, there's something about looking at analog movies that's infinitely more powerful than digital."

Moviemaking visionary Steven Spielberg, who, like Abrams, started with the small film cameras, shares that soft spot for Super 8. He met Abrams through their mutual passion. Abrams was hired as a teen to edit and repair the 8mm movies Spielberg made as a youngster.

A few years ago, Abrams and Spielberg began to talk about their early film days and that sparked the idea for "Super 8." The movie, which opens June 10, looks at what happens in 1979 when a group of teen-agers capture some surprise footage while shooting a zombie film. Abrams wrote and directed the new release; Spielberg's the producer.

Abrams may use a lot different technology these days, but his Super 8 films contain his distinctive style—especially with storytelling.

"I've always liked working on stories that combine people who are relatable with something insane," Abrams says. "The most exciting thing for me is crossing that bridge between something we know is real and something that is extraordinary. The thing for me has always been how you cross that bridge."

The most difficult part of making "Super 8" was the speed he would take the audience across the bridge. Abrams had to figure out how long he could tease the audience with the mystery element—something that has made "Super 8" one of the most anticipated movies of the summer.

"In a lot of movies, the typical thing that is the galvanizing activator happens by page 30. The structure of this movie isn't like that. You don't get the catalyst in this film until page 90," Abrams says.

It helped that while the movie has a sci-fi movie feel—somewhere between the '50s drive-in terror tales and "E.T."—at its heart is a story about family, love and loss. Abrams feeds the audience partial glimpses of the mystery while telling the story of the young filmmakers and their families.

Finding the balance between those elements worried Abrams while he wrote the script.

"The lack of specific convention makes it a challenge. You don't want to lose the people who don't think it's funny enough or the people who want

it to be more sci-fi," Abrams says. "The goal was to try and give people not just a horror movie, not just a romance story, but give people an emotional experience."

He's had plenty of practice writing emotion. Abrams broke into the business in 1990 as a writer and became known for turning out TV scripts for his series "Felicity" and "Alias" on a weekly basis. He continues to write, but his work schedule has changed.

"I'm an impatient guy and tend not to like to stay with one thing for a long time. I'll never be able to write as many scripts as I did for 'Felicity' or 'Alias' ever again. I'm just too impatient these days. I want to get on to the next project," Abrams says.

Those next projects will be the new CBS series "Person of Interest" and the feature film "Mission Impossible—Ghost Protocol." There's also another "Star Trek" movie looming.

All of the new projects will require Abrams to use the most advanced technology available. But in his heart, he'll always be the kid who found a passion for telling stories through Super 8.

Katie Couric makes move to ABC for talk show

NEW YORK (AP)—Katie Couric has worked in morning television, the evening news and now—thanks in part to Oprah Winfrey—will try out a daytime talk show.

Winfrey's exit from the market she dominated for much of the last two decades is providing Couric with an opening. The former "CBS Evening News" anchor and "Today" show host and ABC announced their long-anticipated deal on Monday,

setting September 2012 for the premiere of Couric's new show.

"Oprah leaving made it seem like it was feasible," Couric said. "because to go up against Oprah would be pretty terrifying. I don't think anybody could really do that."

Couric will have a part ownership stake in her new talk show, which reunites her

with Jeff Zucker. The former NBC Universal chief, who was in the control room during many of Couric's years at the "Today" show, will be executive producer of the talk show, which doesn't have a name yet. It will be based in New York.

Giving the show a head start, ABC also announced that eight ABC-owned stations



Couric

Tom Hanks launches new film at London premiere

LONDON (AP)—Hollywood actor Tom Hanks is in London for the world premiere of his new movie "Larry Crowne."

The Academy Award-winning actor—in London Monday for the world premiere of his new movie "Larry Crowne"—says the film is about not giving up to cynicism. Hanks directed, co-wrote and also stars as the protagonist in the movie, which is about a middle-aged man who reinvents himself by going back to college after he loses his job.

"I think this film is about a battle against cynicism we all have," said Hanks, 54, on the red carpet.

"Larry is not in a hopeful

space... It's easy to surrender to the cynicism, and a lot of people have to face it, but Larry proves that the forward motion of him going back to school gives him the faith that something is going to happen. That is not only an upbeat message, but a very wise one," he said.

Julia Roberts plays his romantic interest—a jaded teacher at a local college.

Hanks was joined at a movie theater in a London shopping mall Monday evening by fans and celebrities including fellow actor David Hasselhoff and The Rolling Stones' guitarist Ronnie Wood.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY

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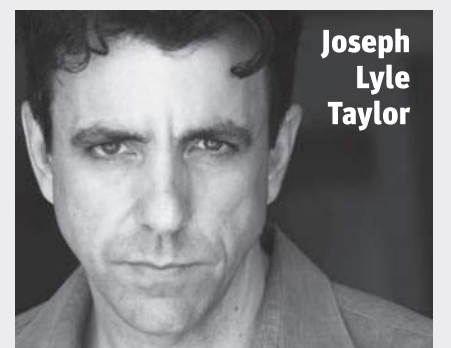
Q: When will one of my favorite shows, "Drop Dead Diva," be back for its next season?—Gennifer T., via email

A: Well, you don't have long to wait! "Drop Dead Diva" returns to Lifetime Television for its third season on Sunday, June 19. For those who haven't seen the show, "DDD" is a one-hour comedic drama that tells the story of a shallow wannabe model who dies in a sudden accident, only to find her soul resurfacing in the body of a brilliant, plus-size and recently deceased attorney, Jane. This season's guest stars include Paula Abdul, Kathy Griffin, Wanda Sykes, Clay Aiken, Lance Bass, Amanda Barse, Tony Goldwyn, Howard Hesseman, Sharon Lawrence, Jennifer Tilly, Quinton Aaron and more.

Q: I was watching a new sitcom on ABC called "Happy Endings," and the actor who plays Dave looks very familiar. What else might I have seen him in?—Jerry G., via email

A: Well, I remember Zachary Knighton best as Bryce from the shouldn't-have-been-canceled show "FlashForward." I also rewatched "The Prince and Me" recently, and realized that he plays one of Julia Stiles' brothers in that movie. He's also had guest roles on "House, M.D." and "Bones," as well as "Law and Order" and "Law and Order: SVU." Stop me when something sounds familiar

Q: I was so happy to hear that FX's "Justified" has been renewed for a third season; however, I was sad to see Joseph Lyle Taylor's character, Doyle, get killed in the second-season finale. Now that his run on "Justified" is over, where can I catch this talented actor next?—Fanny R., Tulsa, Okla.



Joseph Lyle Taylor

A: Joseph's next role is that of Martin Chisholm in the feature film "Seven Days in Utopia," which also stars Melissa Leo, Robert Duvall and Lucas Black. Joseph told me a bit about the film: "It's really a heartfelt movie about this kid, played by Lucas Black, finding himself. I play his father. It's such a pretty script. "My character rides his son hard to do his best in golf and makes him practice and this and that. He ends up giving him some bad advice, and his son ends up not winning the tournament, takes off and that is where he meets Robert Duvall (who plays Johnny Crawford) out in Utopia. He learns some life lessons out there, and he comes back and tries to make amends with his father. It's really touching."

Q: What has my favorite actress, Meryl Streep, been up to lately?—David R. in Alabama

A: Meryl is busy filming "The Iron Lady," where she plays the U.K.'s first female prime minister, Margaret Thatcher. Word from the set is that her portrayal is astonishing, and her transformation is absolutely stunning. Look for "The Iron Lady" in late 2011, just in time to be considered for the Oscars.

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com. For more news and extended interviews, visit www.celebrityextraonline.com and twitter.com/Celebrity_Extra.

Early Hitler letter on Jews to be unveiled

NEW YORK (AP)—A letter by Adolf Hitler believed to contain his first written comments on his anti-Semitic vision will soon be unveiled.

The letter, dated September 1919,

has been obtained by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Jewish human rights organization. The center will reveal the letter's full contents at a press conference Tuesday in New York at the Museum of Tolerance.

According to the center, Hitler's letter called for a strong government that could handle the "Jewish threat" and bring about the "removal of the Jews altogether."

Around this time In 1919, the

30-year-old Austrian-born Hitler was a World War I veteran living in Munich, Germany, where he joined a small nationalist and anti-Semitic party that eventually became the Nazi party.



AP

In this Feb. 9, 2011 file photo, singer Patti LaBelle attends The Heart Truth's Red Dress fashion show at Lincoln Center in New York.

West Pointer who sued diva LaBelle leaves academy

WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP)—The U.S. Military Academy says a cadet who is suing R&B diva Patti LaBelle over a scrape at a Houston airport has left the academy at West Point.

A West Point spokeswoman says Richard King left the academy Monday. Lt. Col. Sherri Reed cited privacy laws that prevent her from saying if his exit was related to the lawsuit or the altercation.

The academy acknowledges it investigated the March 11 incident. King says he was in his hometown airport standing near LaBelle's luggage when three of her bodyguards attacked him. In court papers, he says LaBelle thought he was standing too close to her bags.

Video shows King on the phone and a shoving match ensuing, with three people pushing and punching King. His lawyer says he suffered a concussion.

Radcliffe to sing at Tony Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—If you want to see Daniel Radcliffe sing, tune in early to the Tony Awards.

The "Harry Potter" star says he'll perform the song "Brotherhood of Man" from his Broadway show "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" early in Sunday's telecast. Says Radcliffe: "I think we're one of the first, if not the first."

Radcliffe revealed the news Monday while welcoming hundreds of New York City students as they made their Broadway debuts—performing routines from musicals on the Majestic Theatre stage.

Radcliffe was passed over for a Tony nomination, but says he's pulling for co-stars John Larroquette and Tammy Blanchard, who are up for awards.

"If John won it would be just amazing," he says. "Only because I have a lot of scenes with him."

In this May 23, 2011 file photo, actor Daniel Radcliffe attends the 56th annual Drama Desk Awards in New York.

AP



Lady Gaga to join in Rome gay pride event

ROME (AP)—The U.S. Ambassador to Italy says Lady Gaga has accepted an invitation to participate in a gay pride parade in Rome's Circus Maximus—the closing event of 2011 Euro Pride.

David Thorne said in a state-

ment Monday he is "very proud to have an Italian-American artist of her stature" come to the Italian capital. He quoted U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as saying "human rights are gay rights and gay rights are human rights."

The pop star was invited by Thorne and the local organizers of Euro Pride, which takes place each year in a different European city.

Lady Gaga's new album "Born This Way" sold a million copies in its first week.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Sean Kingston breathing on his own, walking

MIAMI (AP)—A publicist for Sean Kingston says the "Beautiful Girls" singer is breathing on his own and walking in a Miami hospital. Joseph Carozza says his client's condition has been upgraded to serious more than a week after Kingston crashed his watercraft into a bridge off Miami Beach. A female passenger also was injured. Kingston has been hospitalized since the May 29 crash. Carozza says Kingston walked Monday morning for the first time since the crash. In an email, the publicist said Kingston thanks his friends, family and fans for their prayers and well wishes.

US Supreme Court turns down actor's appeal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has turned away the latest attempt by actor Wesley Snipes to get his conviction and prison sentence on tax charges overturned. The high court refused Monday to hear an appeal from Snipes, convicted in 2008 on three

misdemeanor counts of willful failure to file income tax returns. Snipes started a three-year term in a federal minimum security prison in December. He has appeared in dozens of films, from "White Men Can't Jump" and "Demolition Man" in the early 1990s to the blockbuster Blade trilogy. Snipes wanted his trial held in New York City, where he says he lived, but the government brought charges against him in Florida, where Snipes held a driver's license.

Music promoter gets 21 months in Mariah Carey scam

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A purported music entrepreneur who bilked a New Jersey investor out of \$330,000 by claiming he was promoting a series of Mariah Carey concerts in Dubai has been sentenced to 21 months in federal prison. Antwan Ross also was sentenced Monday to pay more than \$325,000 in restitution. Ross, who now lives in Berkeley, Calif., headed RDA Group. He claimed the Atlanta-based firm would use

the money to promote the concerts. He told the investor that the money would be used for upfront expenses and that he'd be repaid with interest. The shows never took place, the investor was never repaid and Ross admitted that he used most of the money for his own benefit. He pleaded guilty last year to wire fraud. The investor's name was not disclosed.

Charge dropped in actress' White House protest

WASHINGTON (AP)—Prosecutors have dismissed a charge against the actress who played Pocahontas in the film "The New World" and was arrested after chaining herself to the White House fence. Q'orianka Kilcher and her mother, Saskia Kilcher, were arrested last June after the actress chained herself to the White House fence and her mother poured a black substance over her. The 21-year-old, whose father is a Peruvian Indian, was protesting the sale of land in Peru to oil companies. Peru's president, Alan

Garcia, was meeting that day with President Barack Obama, and Saskia Kilcher said their goal was to disrupt his visit. The actress was charged with unlawful entry and her mother was charged with destroying property. Prosecutors dropped the charges against both women Monday after they completed community service.

Repin painting sells for \$7.4 million

LONDON (AP)—Christie's auction house says it has set a world auction record for Russian artist Ilya Repin with the 4.5 million pound (\$7.4 million) sale of "A Parisian Cafe." The auction house says the piece—painted in 1897—had been in a private collection since 1916. Bidding started at 1.8 million pounds on Monday and the piece eventually sold to an anonymous telephone bidder. "A Parisian Cafe" is the renowned Russian master's largest oil painting. It depicts a traditional Parisian cafe scene. Christie's had estimated it would fetch between 3 million and 5 million pounds.

Church teacher dodging dates should say 'never on Sunday'

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a 48-year-old single male. I teach an adult Sunday school class. Two women who have joined our group have made it plain they would like to have a romantic relationship with me.

I'm not sure how to handle this. I'd like to meet someone special, too, but I'm not certain this is the right way. Please advise.

TROUBLED TEACHER IN THE SOUTH



Dear Abby

DEAR TROUBLED TEACHER: Tell the women you have a policy that you do not date your students. To do otherwise would be distracting and disruptive to the class. Once they have "graduated," there is nothing to stop you from dating both of them. One may turn out to be that someone special you have been looking for, but if she's not, you'll have saved everyone from unnecessary drama.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We are a gay couple who have been together for 37 years. We were recently invited to the wedding of a close nephew in San Antonio. The invitation was addressed to us both, and we flew 5,000 miles to attend.

At the ceremony, my partner, "Alan," was seated in front with the groom's family. While we were being shown to our seats, I was told by the groom's father, "Sorry. You can sit somewhere else." Alan and I were deeply offended.

How should we express our displeasure and prevent this from happening again when the niece marries? Do we have a right to say anything?

SNUBBED IN HONOLULU

DEAR SNUBBED: Of course you do. The groom's father was extremely rude to separate you. The person who issued the wedding invitation should be informed of how offensive it was. And if it happens again, the two of you should respond, "We are a couple, and we sit together."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife is a cancer survivor who is doing well. When a friend or relative learns she had cancer, a common response is, "Yeah, I knew someone who had the same kind of cancer. It was awful. It came back six months later and he/she died an agonizing, terrible death."

Abby, it's hard to remain polite around such thoughtless, moronic individuals when they blurt out something like this in my wife's presence. I can't imagine the fear she must experience hearing such remarks. Can you offer an effective retort?

BAFFLED BY THE IGNORANCE

DEAR BAFFLED: Remarks such as you have described usually are made when people don't know what to say, so they blurt out the first thing that comes to mind. A polite response would be, "Thanks for your concern. My wife is doing great."

Of course the appropriate thing for friends and relatives to say would be, "I'm so glad you're better—I care about you and I was worried." To raise the subject of someone who died from the disease is inappropriate and extremely insensitive. There's an old Portuguese proverb: Never mention a rope in the house of a man who has been hanged. It definitely applies here.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

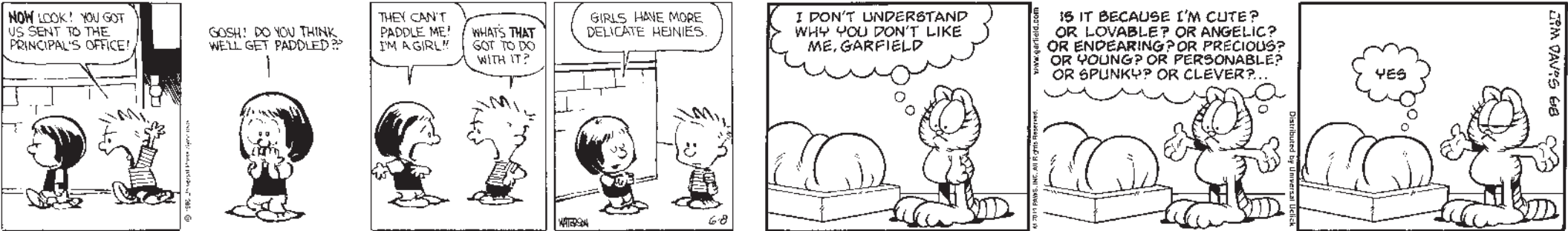
What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

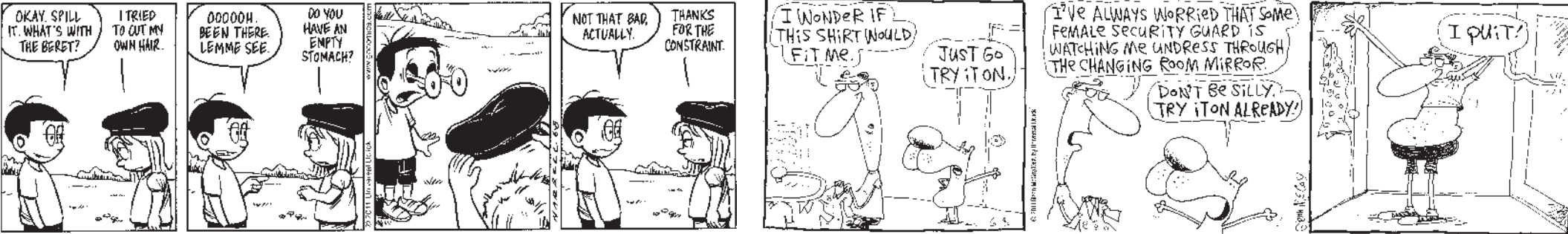
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 1984 Winter Olympics site 41 Word on the street? 43 Lived 44 Bankroll 46 Expiate 50 Minuet-dances 55 Book spine abbr. 56 Gel in a Petri dish 57 Nevada city 58 Doctrine 59 Frog's hangout 60 List-end-ing abbr. 61 — Moines

DOWN 23 Relative by marriage 25 Farm fraction 26 Con's weapon 27 Vagrant 28 Puts into words 29 First victim 30 —tat-tat 31 Paddock papa 35 Sun-shade 38 To the center 40 Lustrous black 42 Talk on and on 45 Chal-lenge 47 "Metamor-phoses" poet 48 Schnozz 49 "Desire Under the —" 50 Potential syrup 51 Past 52 Scooted 53 Trawler need 54 "CSI" evidence

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	V	I	D	H	E	A	L	P	T	A
B	I	T	E	E	L	B	E	L	O	B
S	I	S	T	E	R	A	C	T	A	R
A	T	T	I	C	B	U	R	N		
F	O	O	L	M	E	R	C	I	F	U
H	O	B	P	U	H	E	E	A	K	A
O	V	E	A	R	M	E	D	I	C	E
E	W	E	S		A	N	T	S		
B	O	X	E	S	S	E	W	S		
A	G	A		I	N	C	O	N	T	A
A	R	C		D	E	A	N	E	C	H
L	E	T		E	B	B	S	P	E	A

Yesterday's answer 6-8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16				17			
18			19			20				
		21		22	23		24		25	26
28	29	30				31		32		
33			34				35		36	
37		38		39				40		
41			42		43					
		44		45			46		47	48
50	51	52				53	54		55	
56				57					58	
59				60					61	

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kanye West, 34; Juliana Margulies, 45; Keenen Ivory Wayans, 53; Joan Rivers, 78

Happy Birthday: Opportunities are apparent but don't be too hasty about making a move. Pay close attention to detail and don't leave anything to chance. Work hard this year, putting everything into place that you require to be successful. Added discipline will help you stick to your plan and your budget. Your numbers are 9, 11, 20, 23, 28, 32, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Organization will be the key to your success. Communication will be important and will ensure you get what you want and when. Don't rely on anyone who gives you a sob story or appears to be emotionally unstable. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Talks will make the difference, no matter whether you are learning or teaching. Greater involvement in activities conducive to improving a personal relationship will help you establish your position and your plans for the future. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may be questioned about the way you are doing things but, if you have a plan and it is working for you, stick to it. The less everyone knows about what you are doing, the easier it will be to finish. Don't let a romantic situation stand in the way. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a wait and see approach. Once you have had time to assess your situation, you can move swiftly to reserve the spot you feel most comfortable representing. You can outsmart and outmaneuver

anyone trying to back you into a corner. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You don't need to be the one who does everything. You may be trying to impress someone but falling short will not help. Focus on what you do best and keep things simple. You may have to push others to do their part. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't give up when the going gets tough. Bypass whatever doesn't need your undivided attention and focus on the root of the problem you face. Emotions are likely to get involved in a discussion regarding responsibility. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You've got plenty to look forward to, so stop dwelling on the past. Once you let things go that you cannot change, you will forge ahead and make great strides personally and professionally. Remember that you have wisdom, experience and courage. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have spread yourself a little thin. Neglect will lead to complaints. A trip or conversation with someone knowledgeable will ease your mind and help you establish a workable financial plan. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An emotional matter will get you thinking about future plans. Facing responsibilities head-on isn't your style but this time, end one thing before starting another. Change your plans and set the record straight and you'll send a positive message. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Entertain friends or network with people

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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who share your interests. You will make professional contacts and develop new partnerships. Taking care of domestic issues or fixing up your place to better suit your needs should be on your agenda. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let personal dilemmas stand in your way. Size up your situation and make changes that will allow you to use your skills and services. Talks should be handled professionally, without emotional undertones. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Things can go either way, depending on the way you handle the people you are dealing with. Don't be smug or pretend to know it all. Ask questions and show interest in what others have to offer. The choices you make now will influence how well you do in the future. ***

Birthday Baby: You are a participant, are clever and know how to use your intelligence to profit. You are productive and strive for perfection.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

					9	2				
					1			4		
				3				1	8	
	2	6			3	1				
3			1	6	8			9		
5								6		
	4							8		
			1	5	9	4	7			
			7		6					

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/08

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	9	5	6	8	3	2	1	4
1	4	3	9	2	5	6	7	8
2	8	6	1	4	7	9	5	3
6	2	4	5	3	1	7	8	9
9	3	8	2	7	6	1	4	5
5	7	1	8	9	4	3	6	2
3	1	2	4	6	8	5	9	7
4	6	9	7	5	2	8	3	1
8	5	7	3	1	9	4	2	6

Difficulty Level **

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CASSETTE PLAYERS: OLD TECH Solution: 5 letters

E C E T O M E R C L O C K E E
J L O C U N E K O R B B S R D
D A E N A N M O U N T U O U A
I R M C N L E U N E M T U T R
S I A M T E P R T P S T N C G
P T D C E R C E E E A O D I P
L Y A A S D O T R N E N O P U
A D D N C I E N A N O S E C S
Y R N T D L D L I I K J R L A
T U A A O R O H S C E N E E G
A T R S A G C R U C S E T A E
M S B W P A E T T E S P S N S
R O R O M V S R E L L O R Y A
O O T R E S N I P L A Y E R B
F Y T N A R R A W O R K I N G

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Analog, Base, Brand, Broken, Buttons, Clarity, Clean, Clock, Connect, Counter, Discard, Display, Eject, Electronics, Format, Forward, Insert, Jammed, Keys, Load, Machine, Menu, Mount, Obsolete, Open, Panel, Picture, Player, Remote, Replace, Restore, Rollers, Sound, Stand, Stereo, Stuck, Sturdy, Tuner, Upgrade, Usage, Version, Warranty, Working, Worn

Yesterday's Answer: Duffy's Forest

Today's Puzzle: 6, 8, 5, 9, 4, 3, 1, 7, 8, 9, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 1, 4, 3, 9, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 2, 8, 6, 1, 4, 7, 9, 5, 3, 6, 2, 4, 5, 3, 1, 7, 8, 9, 9, 3, 8, 2, 7, 6, 1, 4, 5, 5, 7, 1, 8, 9, 4, 3, 6, 2, 3, 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 5, 9, 7, 4, 6, 9, 7, 5, 2, 8, 3, 1, 8, 5, 7, 3, 1, 9, 4, 2, 6

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Michael Norita Evangelista (Bar No. F-0364)
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P.O. Box 5600 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670 234-9005/6
Fax No. 670 235-9007

Attorney for Petitioner Arlette Castro Park

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF:)
AUGUSTINE CAMACHO) CIVIL CASE
CASTRO,) NO. 11-0146-CV
Deceased.) NOTICE OF
HEARING AND
NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES,
INTERESTED CLAIMANTS AND CREDITORS
OF AUGUSTINE CAMACHO CASTRO,
Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that Arlette C. Park, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a Petition for Probate and for Letters Testamentary in the Superior court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, praying that she be appointed Administratrix with-Will-Annexed of the Estate of Augustine Camacho Castro, deceased, to determine the heirs of the decedent, and to distribute and to disburse the assets of the estate per the terms of the decedent's last Will and Testament. The hearing on the Petition is set for the 5th day of July, 2011, at 1:30pm, in Courtroom 202 A, at the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice - Guma Husiista - Inwal Aweewe, Sinsupe, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Michael Norita Evangelista, Attorney-at-Law, at Suite 2-C Sablan Building, Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, P.O. Box 5600 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-9005/6. All interested persons should appear at this hearing. All persons having any claims against the estate or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated this 6th day of June, 2011, on Saipan, CNMI.

Bernie A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

WHATZIT Solution:

Girls' night out

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)

OPENING DATE: JUNE 8, 2011 * CLOSING DATE: JULY 8, 2011 TIME: 4:30 PM

"HOUSING INSPECTOR/HOUSING SPECIALIST TECHNICIAN I"

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to jskaipat@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011

Sablan, other delegates come out swinging as 112th Congress starts

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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
javee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Weather Channel predicted near-freezing weather for Jan. 5, the day the 112th Congress was to be sworn in. The GOP, after an... won—the Democrat...

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Are you in favor of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's plan to redefine the service and "reduce"...

Volume XXI, Issue No. 5

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• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

GAL GAL GALAHAD

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Find today's solution in this section

Boesch ballistic as Tigers belt Rangers



ARLINGTON, Texas

(AP)—Brennan Boesch had two of Detroit's four home runs while setting career highs with five hits and five RBIs as the Tigers belted the Texas Rangers 13-7 in the American League on Monday.

Detroit starter Max Scherzer (7-2) pitched just long enough for his first win in nearly a month, when he won his sixth consecutive decision to open the season. He gave up eight hits in five innings.

All of Detroit's homers came off Colby Lewis (5-6), who gave up nine runs in 3 1-3 innings only five days after pitching eight scoreless innings at Tampa Bay.

Rays 5, Angels 1

In Anaheim, David Price took a shutout into the eighth inning, guiding Tampa Bay to victory over Los Angeles.

Price (7-5) allowed one run in seven-plus innings, struck out seven and walked none. He struck out the side in the fifth.

The Rays took a 2-0 lead in the first on Matt Joyce's sacrifice fly and Justin Ruggiano's RBI single. Ruggiano hit his second homer of the season to extend the Rays' lead to 4-0 and Joyce's RBI single in the seventh made it 5-0.

Angels starter Tyler Chatwood (3-3) gave up five runs in seven innings.

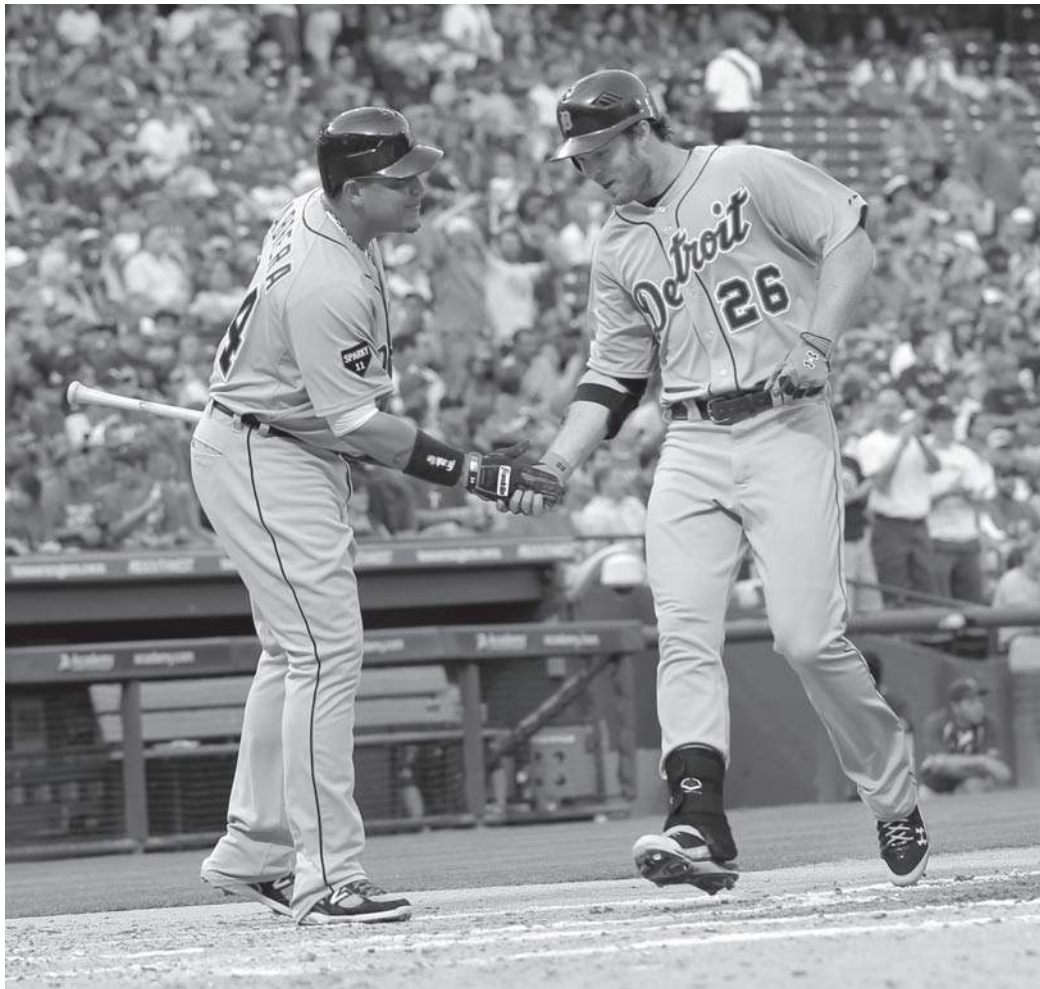
White Sox 3, Mariners 1

In Chicago, Paul Konerko homered to help Chicago down Seattle.

John Danks (1-8) pitched into the eighth inning to finally break through for his first win of the season in his 12th start. He only allowed one unearned run and one walk while striking out six.

The White Sox beat the Mariners for the ninth straight time at U.S. Cellular Field and are 13-1 at home against Seattle dating back to 2008. The nine straight wins matched a club record for the most consecutive home wins against the Mariners.

Seattle rookie starter Michael Pineda (6-3) was an unlucky



Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera (24) congratulates Brennan Boesch (26) following Boesch' solo home run against the Texas Rangers in the third inning of a baseball game, Monday, June 6, 2011, in Arlington, Texas.

loser in a strong performance.

Royals 3, Blue Jays 2, 11 innings

In Kansas City, Eric Hosmer hit a game-ending single to lift Kansas City over Toronto in 11 innings, snapping a four-game skid.

Hosmer had a hand in all three of Kansas City's runs with two RBIs and scored a run.

Chris Getz led off the Royals 11th with a bunt single off Frank Francisco (1-3) and stopped at second on Brayan Pena's single. Alcides Escobar moved the runners up with a sacrifice bunt. An intentional walk loaded the bases with one out. After a line out, Hosmer delivered the game-winning hit.

Joakim Soria (4-3), who was removed from the closer's role after blowing three saves in a week, picked up the victory. He did not allow a hit in two innings.

Twins 6, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Minnesota extended its season-best winning

streak to five games by beating a sinking Cleveland.

Minnesota pitcher Scott Baker (3-4) survived a shaky start — the score was 2-0 to the Indians after just four pitches — to last until the eighth innings, allowing just one additional run.

Matt Tolbert drove in two runs for the Twins.

Josh Tomlin (7-3) lasted six innings for the Indians, who led the AL Central by seven games as recently as May 23 but have lost five in a row and dropped their seventh straight at home.

Orioles 4, Athletics 2

In Baltimore, Oakland suffered its seventh straight defeat, beaten by Baltimore.

Orioles starter Brian Matusz (1-0) allowed two runs in 5 1-3 innings to earn his first win of the season after spending two months on the disabled list.

Matt Wieters had two hits, an RBI and scored a run for Baltimore, which led 4-0 after two innings against Athletics starter Gio Gonzalez (5-4).

The A's fell a season-worst

seven games under .500.

Brewers 7, Marlins 2

In Miami, Prince Fielder homered and drove in four runs to help the Milwaukee Brewers complete their first four-game sweep in three seasons, beating the Florida Marlins.

Fielder hit a three-run homer, his 14th of the season, and added an RBI single. Ryan Braun had two hits and scored twice for the Brewers, who were 5 for 10 with runners in scoring position.

Milwaukee starter Zack Greinke (5-1) allowed two runs in seven innings, winning his fifth consecutive decision and lowering his ERA to 4.83.

The Marlins lost a season-worst fifth game in a row.

The Brewers are 20-6 overall since May 9; the best record in the majors.

Phillies 3, Dodgers 1

In Philadelphia, Cliff Lee hit double-digit strikeouts for the sixth time this season, fanning 10 in seven shutout innings to lead

Philadelphia over Los Angeles.

Lee (5-5) bounced back from one of his worst starts of the season with one of his best. He walked only one, while continuing to strike out batters at a career-best rate. He has 15 career games with double-digit strikeouts—six this season.

Ryan Madson allowed a run in the ninth before finishing for his 13th save.

Giants 5, Nationals 4, 13 innings

In San Francisco, Freddy Sanchez hit a game-ending single with two outs in the 13th inning as San Francisco came from four runs down to beat Washington.

Chris Stewart drew a leadoff walk against Craig Stammen (0-1) to start the winning rally. After a strikeout, Andres Torres singled. Miguel Tejada hit into a fielder's choice to move Stewart to third before Sanchez lined a pitch from Stammen down the line in right.

Javier Lopez (3-1) retired all four batters he faced for the victory.

Rockies 3, Padres 0

In San Diego, Clayton Mortensen and five Colorado relievers combined to shut out San Diego.

Mortensen (2-3) went six innings before giving way to the bullpen. Huston Street pitched a perfect ninth for the save.

Padres starter Clayton Richard (2-7) took the loss despite one of his better starts this season, giving up one run in seven innings and striking out a season-best eight.

Reds 8, Cubs 2

In Cincinnati, Jonny Gomes hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs overall as Cincinnati sent a frustrated Chicago to its seventh straight loss.

Gomes' only two homers since April 17 both set up home wins over the Cubs.

Chicago's slump is its longest since it also dropped seven in a row last July 27-Aug. 3.

Subs starter Matt Garza (2-5) came off the disabled list and lasted only four innings, giving up four runs. Opposing pitcher Mike Leake (5-2) had an RBI single off Garza and took the win.

Sergio Garcia ekes way into US Open; Singh takes pass



COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Sergio Garcia changed his mind about

U.S. Open qualifying and it paid off Monday when he earned a spot at Congressional by surviving a seven-man playoff.

Vijay Singh also changed his mind and didn't show up in Columbus for the 36-hole qualifier, meaning he will miss a major championship for the first time in 17 years.

Garcia, who has fallen to No. 75 in the world, said only last month that he wouldn't go through qualifying. He had rounds of 68-67 at Tunica National in Memphis, Tenn., then got one of the four spots in a playoff to extend his streak in the majors to 47 straight. This was the first time since turning pro in 1999 that Garcia had to qualify.

Singh's streak of 67 consecutive majors—dating to the 1994 U.S. Open at Oakmont—ended with his no-show. According to the PGA Tour's website, he is no longer part of the field at the St. Jude Classic, and there is no other way for him to get into the U.S. Open. The USGA has said it would not give a special exemption this year, as it did for the Fijian for last year's U.S. Open.

Those were the two biggest developments on a day of big hopes, with 11 sectional qualifiers in 10 states. No other major fills half its field with anyone willing to give it a try.

Among those who got into the U.S. Open, which starts June 16 at Congressional:

■ Sam Saunders, the grandson of Arnold Palmer, who made it through a playoff and is going to the U.S. Open for the first time. His grandfather won in 1960 at Cherry Hills, and Palmer tied for fifth in 1964 when the Open first went to Congressional.

■ Steve Irwin, the son of three-time U.S. Open champion Hale Irwin, was among four qualifiers in California.

■ Fred Funk, who once was the golf coach at Maryland. He will be 55 on Tuesday of the U.S. Open, and he'll be in town as one of the 156 players in the field.

Just as noteworthy were some of the players who failed to qualify. The list included a trio of U.S. Open champions (Steve Jones, Lee Janzen and Tom Kite) and a trio of British Open champions (Justin Leonard, David Duval and Ben Curtis).

USC stripped of 2004 BCS national championship



The Bowl Championship Series

stripped Southern California of its 2004 title on Monday, leaving that season without a BCS champion.

The announcement was no surprise. BCS officials had said USC was in danger of having its championship vacated after the Trojans were hit with heavy NCAA sanctions last year for rules violations committed dur-

ing the 2004 and '05 seasons.

"The BCS alerted us today that their presidents have voted to vacate USC's 2005 BCS championship game victory," USC athletic director Pat Haden said. "This was not an unexpected outcome. We will comply with all requirements mandated by the result of this BCS vote."

The NCAA ruled star tailback Reggie Bush received improper extra benefits during those seasons and was ineligible when he played.

One of Haden's first moves

when he took over as AD last year was to give back the school's copy of the Heisman Trophy that Bush won in 2005. Bush later relinquished his own Heisman and the trust in charge of handing out the award announced the '05 winner would be left vacant.

The BCS waited until USC appealed the NCAA sanctions, which included a two-year ban from postseason play and a loss of 30 scholarships over three seasons, to make a decision about its championship. The NCAA denied USC's appeal on May 26.

At that point, it was just a matter of time before the Trojans' 55-19 victory against Oklahoma in the 2005 Orange Bowl was wiped from the record books.

The dominant performance capped a perfect season by USC and left it ranked at the top of both the AP and coaches' polls. Auburn and Utah also finished that season undefeated.

The Trojans will not have to relinquish The Associated Press national championship.

"The BCS arrangement crowns a national champion,

Burress leaves NY prison for uncertain NFL career



ROME, N.Y. (AP)—Clad nearly all in black—hooded sweat shirt, athletic shorts, sneakers—and a white T-shirt, the tall, lanky man walked alone through a gate in a chain-link fence topped by swirls of barbed wire.

Plaxico Burress looked around for something familiar, and his agent Drew Rosenhaus ran up and jumped into his arms as both men smiled broadly.

Freedom at last for Burress, the former New York Giants receiver. He was released from prison around 9 a.m. Monday after spending nearly two years behind bars on a gun charge.

"I just want to thank God for bringing me through one of the most trying times in my life," Burress said in a brief exchange with reporters outside Oneida Correctional Facility in central New York. "It's a beautiful day. It's a beautiful day to be reunited with my family. I want to go home and spend some quality time with them."

"I'd like to thank everybody for their prayers and words of encouragement," Burress said as the fog-shrouded morning gave way to brilliant sunshine. "I'd like to thank all my fans all around the world for the thousands of letters, for their unwavering support. As far as football is concerned, if and when everything gets settled, when they get back on the field, I'll be ready."

Burress pleaded guilty in August 2009 to attempted criminal possession of a weapon and was sentenced to two years in prison. He was released about three months early for good behavior.

Burress will be on parole for two years. He has to get and keep a job, undergo substance abuse testing, obey any curfew established by his Florida parole officer, support his family and undergo any anger counseling or other conditions required by his parole officer.

It didn't take long for friends and former teammates to transmit their good wishes.

In response to a tweet that said: "Just In! Plaxico Burress Just Released from Jail!" former Giants star Michael Strahan responded: "About time!!"

Despite the intensity of the NBA finals, even LeBron James took a moment to tweet: "Welcome home Plaxico! Best of luck in the near future both on and off the field. 17 Jersey coming to a city near u."

Former Giants linebacker Antonio Pierce, who was with Burress the night his life unraveled, tweeted the following a couple of hours before Burress was released: "17.. Time well over due.. Great teammate, friend, person and better yet Man. Always a Champ.. Only 1 way to go ... Back to the TOP."



Former New York Giants star Plaxico Burress speaks to reporters after being released from the Oneida County Correction Facility in Rome, N.Y., Monday, June 6, 2011.

Burress, who turns 34 in August, seemed intent on doing just that. He gave the victory sign as he sped away in a black Range Rover to meet up with his wife for the flight home.

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick, who served a 23-month federal sentence for running a dogfighting ring, has shown it's possible to successfully return to the NFL. Vick said in a recent radio interview with WIP in Philadelphia that Burress would be a great fit with the Eagles. Maybe that's why Burress also was wearing a Philadelphia Phillies hat when he was freed.

The Giants declined comment Monday.

Rosenhaus said the wide receiver would fly home to Florida immediately to begin workouts. Rosenhaus said he has spoken to several teams about Burress and expects him to play again in the NFL. He said Burress matured in prison and there are things he would do differently.

"He's learned an awful lot," Rosenhaus said outside the prison moments before his client emerged. "He knows that he obviously made a mistake. To miss two NFL seasons in the prime of your career. To not be with your family, most importantly. To lose out on millions and millions of dollars. These are things that have forced him to certainly evaluate his life."

Rosenhaus said the teams he's talked to have not expressed any concerns about Burress. He did not say which teams or how many he spoke to.

"He's going to be a top

free agent," Rosenhaus said. "There are going to be multiple teams interested in signing him. I expect him to get a good contract. I expect him to absolutely be playing."

Because he was a high-profile inmate, Burress was placed in a protective custody unit at the prison, which has 930 inmates, 20 in protective custody. While in prison, he completed an ag-

gression management program and worked as a lawn and grounds laborer, according to the state's Department of Correctional Services.

Burress violated prison rules

and regulations three times. He lied to a guard about having permission to use the phone; gave another inmate a pair of black and silver sneakers that were deemed contraband; and had too many cassette tapes and an unauthorized extra pillow in his "filthy" cell.

The 6-foot-5 receiver had the world at his feet after catching a 13-yard pass from Eli Manning with 35 seconds to play to give the Giants a stunning 17-14 win over the undefeated New England Patriots in the 2008 Super Bowl.

His world fell apart nine months later when he walked into a Manhattan nightclub with a handgun tucked in the waistband of his pants. The weapon slipped down and discharged as Burress tried to grab it, injuring him in the thigh.

The wound was not serious. The backlash was.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg called for Burress to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and was irate that officials at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center treated Burress and failed to report the shooting, as required by law. A doctor who treated Burress was later suspended.

The gun was not licensed in New York or in New Jersey, where Burress lived. His license to carry a concealed weapon in Florida had expired in May 2008.

Warriors hire analyst Mark Jackson as head coach



OAKLAND, Calif.

(AP)—Mark Jackson's leadership skills as a player more than outweighed his lack of coaching experience when it came time for the Golden State Warriors to hire their coach.

The Warriors hired Jackson to replace Keith Smart on Monday, giving the former point guard and television analyst his first chance to be a head coach on the game's biggest stage.

"He epitomized leadership as a player in this league for 17 seasons and we think that characteristic—and many other positive traits—will translate very well into his coaching duties with our young team," owner Joe Lacob said in a statement. "He was a leader and a winner both on and off the floor in this league and we're convinced that he is the right person to guide this team into the future and help us achieve the success that we are striving for as an organization."

Jackson will get a three-year, \$6 million contract with a team option for a fourth year, Yahoo! Sports reported.

Jackson interviewed with Lacob, newly hired consultant Jerry West and general manager Larry Riley before being

picked for the job. Riley said the decision was unanimous throughout the organization that Jackson's attributes outweighed his inexperience.

"It was his analysis of the game and the way he sees the game overall in our discussions that really convinced me this guy has thought about the game of basketball," Riley said. "I think he's been yearning to be a head coach for a long time. Some guys sit back and say, 'I can be a head coach.' I think he's been preparing all along for the day when he can be a head coach in this league. It isn't something he had a dream about."

Jackson played 17 years as a point guard in the NBA, for New York, the Clippers, Indiana, Denver, Toronto, Utah and Houston. He won Rookie of the Year honors in 1988 and made the playoffs 14 times. He ranks third on the NBA's all-time assists list.

But he has never coached, spending the past few seasons as the lead analyst for ESPN and ABC for their NBA coverage. He won't start his new job until after he's finished calling the NBA finals.

His first coaching job is a daunting one, taking over a team that has made the playoffs

just once since 1994.

"I am really elated about this opportunity and I'm looking forward to the challenge of building the Warriors into a perennial contender," Jackson said.

Jackson played for five Hall of Fame coaches in his college and pro career: Lou Carnesecca, Lenny Wilkens, Jerry Sloan, Pat Riley and Larry Brown.

Jackson, 46, had been looking to get into coaching while working as an analyst in recent years. He interviewed for the opening in New Orleans last year and was one of three finalists for the Minnesota job in 2009, but lost out to Kurt Rambis. He also interviewed in previous years for openings in Phoenix, New York and Chicago.

He finally ended up getting the offer he wanted from the Warriors, who have made big changes in the front office and coaching staff under Lacob's new ownership.

"I have sensed that Joe is committed to winning and building a team and a culture the right way," Jackson said. "I think we all witnessed that with some of the recent front office additions as well and some of the other positive things that have been done in recent months. This is an in-

credible opportunity."

The hiring of Jackson is the latest move by Lacob, who took over the team last year after buying it from Chris Cohan for a record \$450 million. The team cut ties with Don Nelson before Lacob and co-owner Peter Guber officially took over ownership and Keith Smart coached the team to a 36-46 mark this past season.

But Smart did not keep the job despite Golden State showing a 10-game improvement in the standings. Lacob also brought in West as a consultant last month and former agent Bob Myers as assistant general manager and GM in waiting in April.

Jackson takes over a team led by a high-scoring but undersized backcourt of Monta Ellis and Stephen Curry. The Warriors and their new coach must also address the team's lack of an inside presence.

"He has a strong personality, not abrasive, but he has a strong personality and should have the right mix to lead our team," Riley said. "I think he'll be a guy who will relate to our team. That's important. That was part of this decision. That was an ingredient we were looking for. Not only can he relate to the team, he can get the point across and get results."

All-Star Sporting Goods, Athlete's Foot donate to RBC

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Rollers Basketball Club graciously received a new backboard and rim from sponsors All-Star Sporting Goods and Athlete's Foot.

"We want to thank Ms. Soledad Tenorio, manager of Boarderline, All-Star Sporting Goods, and Athlete's Foot for the new goal. We are going to use it at a lower height to help develop our younger players who are not ready to shoot on a 10-foot regulation goal," said RBC head coach Joe Diaz.

Ideally, Diaz would like to attach the goal to a portable pole that he can transport to and from practices. Diaz has aspirations of opening even younger age divisions (5 to 12 years old) where players can develop their game on eight-foot rims.

"When we hold practices in Garapan, a lot of parents ask me if they can sign up their younger kids. I am totally open to the idea, but it is hard to teach little kids who aren't quite strong enough to shoot on a 10-foot goal. I feel bad

when they participate in the running, dribbling, and passing drills, but can't really do any shooting—and its obvious that every kid wants to shoot the ball. So If we can get at least two portable and adjustable goals for the smaller kids then they'll get a lot more out of practice sessions and have a heck of a lot more fun," added Diaz.

Diaz also said he has a place to store the much needed equipment and has a lot of interested youth players that will benefit from the age-group expansion.

Although, RBC is excited to have its new goal, it still needs to be installed onto a portable pole.

In addition, RBC is seeking help from any interested companies that can assist in obtaining and/or installing at least one more portable goal to hold practices and accommodate full court "mini-games".

Singing, dance show fundraiser

RBC is also putting on a lip sync singing and dance show fundraiser in conjunction with the Division of Youth Services and Pacific Islands Club to help its U12, U14, U16, and U18 divisions compete in Guam's



Rollers Basketball Club head coach Joe Diaz, right, poses with All-Star Sporting Goods employees Densy Willy, left, and Medson Aldore as he accepts a new basketball goal to be used to help develop his upcoming 5- to 12-year-old youth players.

2011 Take Care-Summer Jam Youth Basketball Tournament from June 24 to Aug. 14, 2011.

The singing and dancing show will be held at the Garapan Central Park this Friday, June 10, from 5:30pm to 9:30pm.

Tickets in advance cost \$7 and will be sold for \$10 at the door.

RBC members in the four divisions will be performing during the show.

Performers include U12's RBC Little Rascals in Cute Little Brothers dancing *Let Me Take You Out* by Frankie J featuring Travis Porter; U14's Mix Blue performing *Boyfriend* by Big

BREWERS

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Brewers with the bases loaded. The Angels offense stalled again and stranded two runners in the bottom frame and after a quiet fifth, the Brewers shot ahead, 7-0, in the sixth inning off four hits, a fielder's choice, a bean ball, and errors.

Ton Rogolifoi, Toi Celis, and

Sablan all ripped RBI singles; Angels managed a pair of runs in the bottom frame off errors.

Brewers threatened again, but left a man at third base to start the seventh, went on to force the Angels 1-2-3 in the bottom frame.

Brewers' Byron Kaipat then drove in Celis in the top of the eighth that brought the count to 8-2.

The Angels mustered two

runs in the bottom frame off an error and an RBI single by Jerome Delos Santos, but the Brewers got one back in the top of the ninth off an error.

Although he looked a little shaky in the previous two innings, Brewers pitcher Cepeda found some gas in the tank at the end and struck out the side in the bottom of the ninth.

Cepeda did not allow an earned run and gave up just

three hits and seven walks with 14 strikeouts.

Notably, the Angels were not happy with the umpiring all night, despite not bagging a base hit until the seventh inning. Meanwhile, the Brewers smashed 13 hits in the game.

Brewers' Celis batted 3-for-6 with an RBI, two runs, and a stolen base. Kaipat swung 2-for-4 with an RBI, a run, a base on balls, and a hit-by-pitch.

MIEKO

From Page 28

The 32-year-old Carey finished fourth in the women's division with a time of one hour, 42 minutes, and 12 seconds. She was one of the only six female riders to complete the five-lap, 20-kilometer race.

"It was hard. Now I miss triathlon, but I like to keep doing races like these, as these will help me become a better biker. It was a great experience,"

Carey said.

Before the race, Carey tested the course and almost did not make it to the kickoff after a fall.

"The course was very technical. I crashed and hurt my leg and shoulder. I could not walk well the night before the race, but the good thing was I don't have to worry about my shoulder because it was just a bike race, no swimming or running. But in the end, I was forced to run with the bike, " the two-time XTERRA Japan champion said.

The first 500m of the race was uphill and the next 500m was downhill and Carey placed seventh in the group after the first lap. She managed to keep up with the lead pack in the uphill course, before riders passed her downhill.

"I was really nervous, I never felt like that in triathlon. The total climb was over 1,000m. There were three big climbs. One of them was like the Bitch Hill at Mt. Tapochao. Just imagine you climb the Bitch five times," Carey said.

The uphill and downhill rides lasted for three laps and Carey almost gave up with one lap to go.

"My legs were tired, I almost stopped. But, I said only one more lap to go, I can do it. Then my chain broke and I had to push my bike to the finish line," said Carey said, who was 15 minutes behind the top female finisher.

Despite her struggle, Carey said she looks forward to competing in the MTB race's next stage later this year.

SWEEPS

From Page 28

games, Choi and Lee downed Loyda Ito and Cristy Villafior, 21-18, 21-13; Angie Ito and Zapanta topped Malou Malasarte and Chris Obaldo, 21-19, 21-12; and Bartolome and Peraja defeated Anna Alvarez and Shirley Kim, 21-16, 21-18.

Other opening day winners were Anna Omori and Michelle Caleon, Vic Reyes, Mario Diola, and Saul Gargallo.

Gargallo needed three sets to thwart Joseph Santos in the men's B1 singles, 21-16, 16-

21, 21-10. Diola also survived a three-set men's B singles match against Edwin Montoya, 21-20, 20-21, 21-3.

In the fourth women's A doubles game last Saturday, Omori and Caleon triumphed over Marylyn Montano and Cheng Saturno, 21-15, 13-21, 21-20.

Last Saturday at Court 1, Aries Cordero and Hilario and Joseph Santos and Sam Jones prevailed in their respective

men's A doubles matches. Cordero and Hilario won over Edwin Maratas and Olanda, 21-18, 21-16, while Santos and Jones edged Dick Guintu and Narlou Achas, 21-17, 21-16.

In other matches at Court 1, Andrew Galvez thwarted Mariola Diola in the men's A singles, 21-11, 21-12; Mahesh Balakrishna slipped past Joel Ortega in the men's C singles, 18-21, 21-14, 21-14; and Malou Malasarte won over Loyda Ito in the women's A singles, 21-19, 21-13.

Over at Court 2, Rick Brien beat Panapa in the men's C singles, 21-16, 21-13; Luis Camacho downed Dick Boranah in the men's C singles, 21-19, 21-10; Montano whipped Villafior in the women's A singles, 21-18, 15-21, 21-13; Caleon topped Merlie Tolentino in the women's B singles,

21-21, 21-10; and Brendon Talanía and Jerome Malasarte crushed Zandro Neri and Bryan Balboa, 21-9, 21-9.

At Court C, Father Charlie Borja and Carlo Conwi and Zapanta and Lazaro swept their respective foes, while Irish Pagarao and the pair of Elma Labuson and Jaja Samonte recorded victories in three sets. Borja and Conwi tallied twin wins in the men's C doubles after defeating Park Sang Do, 21-16, 21-19, and Luis Camacho and Pana, 21-11, 21-14.

Games in the IT&E badminton tournament will continue tonight.

Time Rush; U16's Local Mix performing *Single Lady* by Beyonce; U18's Just Do It! singing and dancing *Dirty Beat* by The Black Eyed Peas; and local dance group Project Impact, managed by Ester Sablan, who will take the stage for the closing performance.

In-kind prizes and trophies

will be awarded to the Top 4 finishers.

For more information or to register for the fundraiser, contact Diaz at 788-2163 or Paul Camacho at 285-0142. Inquiries may also be sent via email to jodediaz41@gmail.com or paulcamacho_13@hotmail.com.

Softball fundraiser for Jesus C. Attao set June 17-19



For all softball enthusiasts, there will be a double-elimination medical fundraiser tournament for 12-year-old Jesus C. Attao. The competition will be held from June 17 to June 19 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Proceeds from the goodwill event will be donated to help defray the medical costs associated from a series of vital surgeries that the young man must endure in the coming months.

Attao was born with cleft lip and palate, which is a condition where the two plates of the skull that form the roof of the mouth are not completely joined. Approximately 1 in 700 children born have a cleft lip (cheiloschisis) and/or cleft palate (palatoschisis) worldwide.

A cleft is an opening or gap, in this case, at the crack of Attao's upper lip.

They can also affect other parts of the face such as the eyes, ears, nose, cheeks, and forehead.

Clefts can be successfully treated with surgery, especially if conducted soon after birth or during early childhood.

Entrance fee to participate is \$125 per team. Eight teams are already confirmed and organizers are hoping to accrue at least 15 teams.

At least three girls must be on each team and two girls must play out in the field at all times.

Depending on the turnout, games start hourly at 6:30pm on June 17 until 10:30pm; continue all day Saturday, starting at 8:30am to 9:30pm; and again all day Sunday from 8:30am until its expected 7pm conclusion that night.

Organizers are holding a meeting at 6pm today, June 8, at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The Attao family and their friends would appreciate your support.

For more information or registration, contact Jojo Attao at 285-7483 or B.J. Attao at 285-2826. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)

TALANIA

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at the half.

Fernando paced his team with six points in the third quarter, as Mobil retained the lead, 52-50, with 10 minutes to go, despite a trio of 3-balls by Madness to end the period.

Then Mobil's point guard Jun Estolas turned it up at crunch time with nine points that thwarted a 15-point combined effort from Madness' Ivan De Vero and James Villacrusis in the final period.

Estolas led five Mobil players in double figures with 18 points, while Matagolai sank five from behind the arch for a game-high 23 in the loss.

First Game

Blue Haus 81 – Vinas 17, Aquino 15, Sacramento 14, Talanía 14, Diaz 7, Santos 6, De Vero 4, Tabora 4.

Ferrera Builders 79 – Abuy 25, Bernardo 13, Abuel 12, Demapan 11, Cruz 4, Miranda 4, Yabut 4, David 3, Tamenbong 3.

Scoring by quarters: 14-17, 39-44, 63-63, 81-79.

Second Game

Mobil 78 – Estolas 18, Ruloked 15, Maratita 13, Fernando 12, Rabauliman 12, De Guzman 4, Sharry 4.

Rollers Madness 72 – Matagolai 23, De Vero 19, Rasa 9, Villacrusis 9, Reyes 6, Ulloa 3, Lisua 2, Litulumar 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-17, 35-35, 52-50, 78-72.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	33	24	.579	—
Boston	33	26	.559	1
Tampa Bay	31	29	.517	3 1/2
Toronto	30	30	.500	4 1/2
Baltimore	27	31	.466	6 1/2
Central Division				
Cleveland	33	25	.569	—
Detroit	32	27	.542	1 1/2
Chicago	29	33	.468	6
Kansas City	26	34	.433	8
Minnesota	22	37	.373	11 1/2
West Division				
Texas	34	27	.557	—
Seattle	31	29	.517	2 1/2
Los Angeles	30	32	.484	4 1/2
Oakland	27	34	.443	7
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	36	24	.600	—
Florida	31	27	.534	4
Atlanta	32	28	.533	4
New York	28	31	.475	7 1/2
Washington	26	34	.433	10
Central Division				
St. Louis	36	25	.590	—
Milwaukee	34	26	.567	1 1/2
Cincinnati	31	30	.508	5
Pittsburgh	28	30	.483	6 1/2
Chicago	23	35	.397	11 1/2
Houston	23	37	.383	12 1/2
West Division				
San Francisco	34	26	.567	—
Arizona	33	27	.550	1
Colorado	28	31	.475	5 1/2
Los Angeles	28	33	.459	6 1/2
San Diego	27	34	.443	7 1/2
Yesterday's Games				
Philadelphia 3, L.A. Dodgers 1				
Cincinnati 8, Chicago Cubs 2				
Milwaukee 7, Florida 2				
Colorado 3, San Diego 0				
San Francisco 5, Washington 4, 13 innings				
Minnesota 6, Cleveland 4				
Baltimore 4, Oakland 2				
Detroit 13, Texas 7				
Chicago White Sox 3, Seattle 1				
Kansas City 3, Toronto 2, 11 innings				
Tampa Bay 5, L.A. Angels 1				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

2010-2011 MISO Outrigger Canoe Race

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Members of Marianas High School's boys team pose with their championship trophy after ruling the 2010-2011 MISO Outrigger Canoe Race at Kilili Beach last month.



The Dolphins pose for a group photo after the race.



Members of Saipan Southern High School girls squad flash the No. 1 sign after winning the championship.



The Lady Rays get a hi-five from coach Leilani Deleon Guerrero Nielsen.



Saipan Southern High School paddlers make their turn after completing the first lap of the 1,500m race.



The Lady Dolphins near the finish line.



Kagman High School paddlers gets ready to turn for the second lap of the 1,500m race.



The Lady Rays paddle hard in the first 500m race of the 1,500m event.



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ballistic as
Tigers belt
Rangers**
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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Burrell leaves
NY prison for
uncertain
NFL career**
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28 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Brewers take Game 1 of finals, 9-4

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Tan Holdings Brewers laid down the lumber on pennant champion St. Michael's Angels and took Game 1 of Saipan Major League's best-of-five final series, 9-4, last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



Game 2 goes down tonight beginning 6:30pm at Tan Ko field. Brewers left the bases loaded to start the game, but ace pitcher Vince Cepeda struck out the side in the bottom frame.

Angels hurler Franco Flores answered and forced Brewers 1-2-3 in the top of the second, but the Angels still left a man at second base in the bottom half.

Both teams went three up and three down in the third and the Brewers finally hit the board with a run in the top of the fourth inning.

Asap Wabol drove in Manny Sablan with a sacrifice fly, but the Angels escaped and stuffed the

See BREWERS on Page 26



Brewers' Ton Rogolifoi safely slides home against St. Michael's Angels Game 1 of the Saipan Major League best-of-five final series held Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Mieko completes Japan MTB race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mieko Carey debuted in the 2011 JCF Mountain Bike Japan Series 2 in Fujimi, Nagano, Japan and capped the race in style, walking her bike to the finish line.

"In the last 200m of the race, my chain came off. Then I remembered what I used to do in XTERRA. Just run with the bike to the finish

line," Carey said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The MTB race in Japan last Saturday was the second of a six-part series event and it featured 14 female riders, including former Olympians and those who will compete in the 2012 Olympics in London.

The men's division had pro riders, including many-time XTERRA Saipan participant Takahiro Ogasawara.

See MIEKO on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mieko Carey pedals in one of the five-lap MTB race in Japan last weekend.

Talania stars as Blue Haus nips Ferrera Builders

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



League-leading Blue Haus remains undefeated after beating

Ferrera Builders, 81-79, on a buzzer-beater courtesy of Edwin Santos in last Monday's QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup Invitational League curtain raiser at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Blue Haus trailed by six points in the last three minutes and its shots went cold until the final minute.

Brandon Talania delivered six points in the clutch, highlighted by a steal and an assist to teammate Dennis Vinas for the game-tying bucket.

Then in the final 10 seconds, Talania drove to the hoop before dishing it off to a wide-open Santos for the game-winner.

The win improved Blue Haus' winning streak to six games, while Ferrera Builders' record fell to 4-3.

In the second game, Mobil defeated Rollers Madness, 78-72, to improve to third place in the standings behind Blue Haus

► Blue Haus' Brandon Talania drives to the hoop in last Monday's QQ Car Rental caging game against Ferrera Builders at the Garapan Basketball Court. WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



and Sonics (5-1) at 5-2. Madness' slate fell to a win with a handful of defeats.

In the first game, Ferrera Builders managed an early 17-14 edge in the opening 10 minutes thanks to a late seven-point string by shooter Wowie Abuel.

Ferrera Builders maintained a 44-39 advantage at halftime as James Abuy nailed four 3-pointers in the second quarter.

Blue Haus regrouped after the break and knotted the game at 63-all heading into the final stanza. Rodney Sacramento and Bernard Aquino combined for 17 markers in the third quarter.

Ferrera Builders' Abuy hit two more long balls in the fourth and his team managed to milk the clock for the majority of the period, but could not find an answer for Talania's late upsurge.

Vinas' 17 points led four Blue Haus players in double digits, while Ferrera Builders' Abuy drained seven shots from downtown and led all scorers with 25 on the short end.

In the late match, Mobil constructed a slim 19-17 edge in the first period from six points apiece by Angelo Fernando and Juan Maratita.

Madness' Manny Matagolai then caught fire and scored seven points in the second quarter to tie the game, 35-all.

See TALANIA on Page 26

Sweeps rule Week 1 of IT&E badminton tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Sixteen of the 27 games in Week 1 of the 2011 IT&E Singles/Doubles Badminton Tournament played over the weekend at the NMBA Gym at the TSL Sports Complex resulted in sweeps.

Recording sweeps on Saturday were Chris Hilario and Kim

Boranah and the pairs of Hannai Choi and So Young Lee, Angie Ito and Gigi Zapanta, and Lani Bartolome and Marlene Peraja.

Hilario played in the men's B2 singles and beat Jorge Olanda in straight sets, 21-13, 21-12, while Boranah prevailed over Rose Lazaro in the women's C singles, 21-15, 21-9.

In the women's A doubles

See SWEEPS on Page 26



Angie Ito reaches for the shuttlecock during her and Gigi Zapanta's doubles game against Malou Malasarte and Chris Obaldo in the IT&E badminton tournament last Saturday at the NMBA Gym at the TSL Sports Complex. ROSELYN B. MONROYO